

four watches into which the Romans, and the Jews after their supremacy, divided the night, lasting respectively until 9, 12, 3, and 6 o'clock. **Unto all.** Christ further impressed these lessons by the parables of the virgins, and the talents, and the closing picture of the judgment, as given in Matt. 25.

### GOLDEN TEXT.

**Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.** 1 Thess. 5, 6.

### OUTLINE.

#### Watchfulness Enjoined—

1. Against Deception, v. 21-23.
2. Against Doubt, v. 24-31.
3. Against Surprise, v. 32-37.

### LESSON HYMNS.

No. 403, *New Hymn Book.*

S. M.

The praying Spirit breathe,  
The watching power impart.  
From all entanglements beneath  
Call off my anxious heart.  
My feeble mind sustain,  
By worldly thoughts oppress;  
Appear, and bid me turn again  
To my eternal rest.

S. M.

My soul, be on thy guard;  
Ten thousand foes arise;  
The hosts of sin are pressing hard  
To draw thee from the skies.  
O watch, and fight, and pray;  
The battle ne'er give o'er;  
Renew it boldly every day,  
And help divine implore.

No. 770, *New Hymn Book.*

7s.

When this song of praise shall cease,  
Let thy children, Lord, depart  
With the blessing of thy peace,  
And thy love in every heart.

Oh! where'er our path may lie,  
Father, let us not forget  
That we walk beneath thine eye,  
That thy care upholds us yet.

Blind are we, and weak, and frail,  
Be thine aid forever near;  
May the fear to sin prevail  
Over every other fear.

### HOME READINGS.

- M. Watchfulness enjoined. Mark 13. 21-37.  
Tu. The parable of the virgins. Matt. 25. 1-13.  
W. The parable of the talents. Matt. 25. 14-30.  
Th. The coming of the Son. Matt. 25. 31-46.  
F. A lesson of warning. 1 Kings 20. 28-43.  
S. The watchman's warning. Ezek. 33. 1-11.  
S. The reward of waiting. Psa. 126. 1-6.

**Time.**—A. D. 29, Tuesday afternoon before the crucifixion.

**Parallel Passages.**—Matt. 24. 23-51; Luke 17. 22-37.

**Place.**—The Mount of Olives.

**Explanations.**—*False Christs*—People pretending to be Christ. *The elect*—The most faithful and devoted followers of Christ. *After that tribulation*—Christ now points out the troubles of the Church and the world after the fall of the Jewish state. Some think this refers to the persecutions of the Christians, others to the fall of the Roman Empire, others to the second coming of Christ at the end of the world. *Gather.... his elect*—Perhaps a reference to the final judgment; perhaps to the universal preaching of the Gospel among the nations. *Four winds*—Meaning the most distant parts of earth. *Fig-tree*—As, when the leaves of the fig-tree appear, you know that summer is coming; so when these events take place, know that the end is at hand. *This generation*—This would seem to show that Christ is still speaking of events connected with the downfall of the Jewish state. *Of that day*—The great day of Christ's second coming, and of the last judgment. *Knoweth no man*—No man, then, has any right to fix a date for its coming. *Neither the Son*—Not even Christ himself had sought to know the time of these events. *Watch and pray*—In order to be always ready.

### QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. **Watchfulness Enjoined—Against Deception**, v. 21-23. Against what did Christ tell the disciples to watch? Who did he say would arise? Who are meant by "false Christs"? What proofs would these show? What is said of such in 2 Thess. 2, 9, 10?

2. **Watchfulness Enjoined—Against Doubt**, v. 24-31. What did Christ say would take place after "the tribulation"? What six events are here named as about to occur? Who could be seen coming in glory? What is commanded for that time in Luke 21. 28? From what are the disciples bidden to learn a lesson? How was the fig-tree to teach them? When did Christ say that these things should be fulfilled?

3. **Watchfulness Enjoined—Against Surprise**, v. 32-37. What did Christ say about the "knowledge of that day"? What day is here referred to? Who alone knows the time of that day? How are we to be ready for that day? To what does Christ compare himself? What duty is given to us all? What is it to watch for the Lord's coming? What is said on this subject in the Golden Text?

### PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where are we here commanded—

1. To watch against error!
2. To watch against danger!
3. To watch for Christ's coming!

**The Lesson Catechism.**—(For the entire school.) 1. Against whom did Christ warn his disciples? Against false Christs and false prophets. 2. What great event did he predict? The coming of the Lord. 3. What did he tell his disciples as to the time of his second coming? "Of that day knoweth no man." 4. What com-