

bility and no looking for the bridegroom, and perhaps wild fancy was holding high carnival in their brain. While they slept they were not ready, for the simple reason that their minds were not in that attitude of expectancy and hope which should characterize those who are watchful for the Lord. "Be ye therefore ready."

Moreover, that Christian is ready and watchful for His Lord, who is engaged in some form of service for Him. This is clearly expressed in the parable of the talents, (Matt. 25:14-30.) The message from the parable of the two household servants is primarily for those who occupy special positions of trust in the Church of God. In the parable of the ten virgins all the saints are included, and the message it contains upon how to wait for the absent Lord, is for all the disciples. In the parable of the virgins there is nothing said about service. In this parable of the talents it is all about service. There is the bestowment of certain talents by a man who is about to take his journey into a far country. These talents are wisely distributed according to the particular ability of each servant. The Master departs into the foreign country and forthwith two of the servants, with true, intelligent love for Him, proceed to invest their Lord's money, that at His coming they may be able to present a good balance-sheet. The third servant, hating and falsely judging his master, went away and hid his Lord's money in