

Lesson X.

WATCHFULNESS—TEMPERANCE LESSON

March 8, 1914

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—In vs. 22-34 Jesus teaches His disciples not to be anxious about such things as food and clothing since God will provide for their needs.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching.—Luke 12 : 37. Memorize vs. 47, 48. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Luke 12 : 35-48. Read Luke 12 : 49-59.

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your ¹ lights burning ;

36 And ² ye yourselves like unto men ³ that wait for their lord, when he ⁴ will return from the ⁵ wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may ⁶ open unto him immediately.

37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching : verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them ⁷ to sit down to meat, and ⁸ will come ⁹ forth and serve them.

38 And if he shall come in the second watch, ¹⁰ or come in the third ¹¹ watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

39 ¹² And this know, that if the ¹³ Goodman of the house had known ¹⁴ what hour the thief ¹⁵ would come, he would have watched, and not have ¹⁶ suffered his house to be broken through.

40 Be ye ¹⁷ therefore ready also : for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

41 ¹⁸ Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even ¹⁹ to all ?

42 And the Lord said, Who then is ²⁰ that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall ²¹ make ruler

Revised Version—¹lamps ; ²be ye ; ³looking for ; ⁴shall ; ⁵a marriage feast ; ⁶a straightway open unto him ; ⁷Omit to ; ⁸Omit forth ; ⁹and if in ; ¹⁰Omit watch ; ¹¹But know this ; ¹²master ; ¹³in ; ¹⁴was coming ; ¹⁵left his ; ¹⁶also ready : for in an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh ; ¹⁷And Peter said, Lord ; ¹⁸unto all ; ¹⁹the ; ²⁰set over ; ²¹food ; ²²set him over ; ²³Omit and ; ²⁴the maid-servants ; ²⁵expecteth not, and in an hour when he knoweth not ; ²⁶asunder, and appoint his portion ; ²⁷unfaithful ; ²⁸made not ready, nor ; ²⁹Omit commit ; ³⁰And to whomsoever ; ³¹much be ; ³²they commit ; ³³will they.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Watchfulness (Temperance), Luke 12 : 35-40. T.—Watchfulness (Temperance), Luke 12 : 41-48. W.—"Take heed to yourselves," Luke 21 : 25-36. Th.—"Watch and pray," Mark 13 : 32-37. F.—"Be watchful," Rev. 3 : 1-6. S.—"Be diligent," 2 Peter 3 : 8-14. S.—"The day is at hand," Rom. 13 : 8-14.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE MASTER'S RETURN.—35, 36. **Loins . . . girded about.** The long, straight inner garment, falling from the neck to the feet, with loose sleeves, worn by the common people in Palestine, was gathered up above the knees when any work was to be done and held by the girdle round the waist. **Lamps burning** (Rev. Ver.). Eastern lamps were made of terra cotta, cup-shaped with the top closed except for two holes, one for oil and the other for a wick. **Men looking for their lord** (Rev. Ver.); eager to give him a joyful welcome. **Return from the marriage feast** (Rev. Ver.); not his own, but that of some friend. The Greek word for "return" is used of sailors making the homeward voyage to the port whence they had sailed.

37, 38. **Blessed ; receiving a rich reward for their faithfulness.** Verily ; introducing a startling statement. **Gird himself ; gather up his loose, flowing undergarment, in readiness for work.** The master becomes a servant. **Serve them ;** helping them, perhaps, to portions of the marriage feast brought home, like a father with his children.

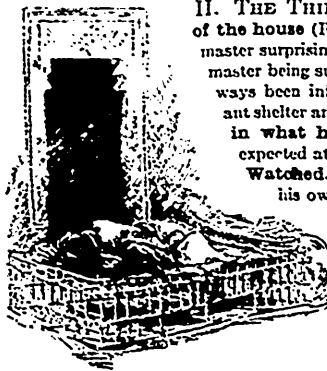
(Compare John 13 : 1-17.). **Second watch ;** 12 mid night to 3 a.m. **Third watch ;** 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. These watches are mentioned as the time when the servants would most likely be overcome with sleep. The first of the three Jewish night watches was from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight. The Romans had four night watches of three hours each, counting from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

II. THE THIEF'S ATTACK.—39, 40. **Master of the house** (Rev. Ver.). Jesus had spoken of a master surprising his servants ; He now speaks of a master being surprised. **Thief.** Palestine has always been infested by robbers, who find abundant shelter amongst its rocks and caves. **Known in what hour** (Rev. Ver.). The master was expected at some time ; the thief not at all.

Watched. In the East every one must be his own policeman. The state punishes,

but leaves it to individuals to prevent and detect crimes. **Broken through ;** literally, "dug through," the walls of Eastern houses being commonly made of mud. **Be ye also ready** (Rev. Ver.); like the servants for the master and the master for the thief. **Son of man cometh ;** our Lord's re-

turn to judge the world (ch. 9 : 26) or His coming to summon each individual at death.



A WATCHMAN AT THE GATE