

Lesson VI.

WATCHFULNESS

May 8, 1904

Temperance Lesson

Luke 12 : 35-48. Commit to memory vs. 1, 2. Read Luke 11 : 14 to 12 : 59.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh, shall find watching.—Luke 12:37.

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

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may 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 to sit down to meat, and he will come forth to serve them.

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

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

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

41 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, spakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all.

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

over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

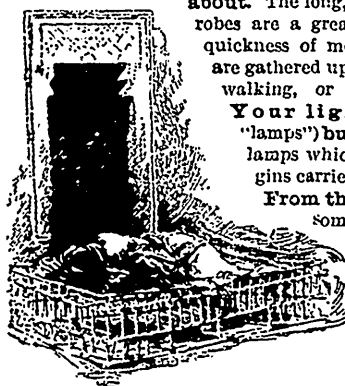
Revised Version—1 lamps; 2 be; 3 looking; 4 shall; 5 marriage feast; 6 straightway open unto him; 7 Omit to; 8 shall come and serve them; 9 and if in; 10 But know this; 11 master; 12 in; 13 was coming; 14 left; 15 also ready; for in an hour that ye think not the Son of Man cometh; 16 And Peter said,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

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—December, 29 A.D.; somewhere in Perea to the east of the river Jordan.

Connection—The healing of a blind and dumb man possessed of a devil; the blasphemy of the Pharisees; the feast at a Pharisee's house; and the parable of the rich fool are recorded in ch. 11: 14-12: 34, Jesus being still on the way to Jerusalem. The Lesson has three illustrations of the duty of Christians, in view of our Lord's second coming.

I. THE MASTER'S RETURN; the first illustration.—35-38. Let your loins be girded about.



Watchman at Gate (Peloubet's Notes)

The long, flowing Eastern robes are a great hindrance to quickness of movement. They are gathered up at the waist for walking, or active service.

Your lights (Rev. Ver., "lamps") burning; like the lamps which the wise virgins carried, Matt. 25: 1-13.

From the wedding; of some friend. **Blessed are those servants;**

having the approval of conscience, and of their Lord. **He** (the master of the house) **shall gird himself . . . and serve them;** as Jesus did, John 13: 4, 5. **Second watch . . . third watch;** referring to the Jewish division of the time between six p.m. and six a.m. into three watches.

II. THE THIEF'S ATTACK; the second illustration.—39, 40. **The goodman;** the master of the house. **What hour the thief would come;**

as sudden and unexpected as a thief's attack will be the coming of the Lord, 1 Thess. 5: 2. **Would have watched;** as householders in the East have to do, property not being so well protected as with us. **To be broken through;** "dug through," the walls being of mud. **At an hour when ye think not;** and therefore His followers should be always prepared.

III. THE TWO STEWARDS; the third illustration.—41-44. **Peter said;** wishing to know

whether the command to watch was given only to the apostles as leaders, or to all disciples. (Compare Mark 13: 37.) **Who then, etc.?** Jesus did not answer Peter directly, but proceeded to teach the lesson of faithfulness. (Compare 1 Cor. 4: 1, 2.) **Their portion of food** (Rev. Ver.), the measured portion of food, such as was served out on Roman estates daily, weekly, or monthly. **Shall find so doing.** The watching is not to be an idle waiting, but active and diligent service. **Make him ruler.** Faithfulness leads to promotion (compare Matt. 25: 21, 23).

45, 46. My lord delayeth his coming. So some spoke concerning the fulfilment of the words of the Lord Jesus, 2 Pet. 3: 8, 9. **Begin to beat . . . to eat . . . to be drunken;** acting like a petty tyrant and carousing at his master's expense. **Cut him in sunder;** a punishment common in ancient times. 2 Sam. 12: 31; Heb. 11: 37. **With the unbelievers** (Rev. Ver., "unfaithful"); those who have not been true to the trust given them.

47, 48. That servant, which knew . . . beaten