

said about the further punishment of the unfaithful servant. Worse is reserved for the king's enemies. Idleness is bad, rebellion and hatred are worse.

V. 27. *Those mine enemies; who were in actual rebellion. Slay them before me.* The word is a strong one, meaning "hew in pieces." Jesus thus foretells that the Jewish

nation will utterly perish, because they rejected Him as Messiah. Jerusalem fell in 70 A.D. after one of the most awful sieges known and then the nation lost all its life. But the same principle of hatred to Jesus ever works similar results. Direst destruction will fall on all His enemies at His second coming. (Matt. 25 : 41 ; Rom. 2 : 5, 6, 8, 9.)

APPLICATION

To return, v. 12. That Christ shall come again is frequently prophesied and promised in the Scriptures (Dan. 7 : 13 ; Matt. 24 : 30 ; John 14 : 3 ; Acts 1 : 11 ; 1 Thes. 1 : 10 ; Rev. 1 : 7). A glorious hope God's people have ever counted it, and—as the Lord Himself intended also that it should be—a mighty incentive to faithfulness.

Occupy till I come. With every true man it is a point of honor not to disappoint one who has trusted him. How much the Lord has trusted to His followers! He has trusted to them His Book, His Day, His Church, His honor, His work. He has made the interests of His kingdom on earth to depend largely upon the fidelity of His disciples. The great, generous trust of Christ should appeal to everything that is noble and chivalrous in our souls and call forth the resolve that, come what will, by His grace, we shall not disappoint Him.

That he might know how much every man had gained by trading, v. 15. God's day of reckoning is sure to come. It is often long delayed, but it comes at last. There was a young man who thought he could break every moral law and not suffer for it. An older and wiser man said to him one day—the words are quaint, but weighty: "Do you think that you can get up early enough in the morning to be ahead of the Almighty?"

Will done thou good servant. (Rev. Ver.) v. 17. Faithfulness never fails to bring reward. According to Christ, the one resistless power that leads to the highest success is not talent or genius, but faithfulness in little things. And His teaching is confirmed in every-day life. "Find a carpenter who is absolutely faithful in every

detail of his work, and you may guarantee his success. Point to a clerk with a conscience that will not permit him to shirk the most trifling minutiae of his assigned duties, and you may promise him a choice of the best clerkships in town. 'Genius is patience,' said Buffon. 'If I differ from other men at all, it is in patient thinking,' said the great Newton. 'How long will it take to learn to play the violin?' asked a young man of the great violinist Giardini. 'Twelve hours a day for twenty years together,' was his reply."—S.S. Times.

Thy pound, hath gained five pounds, v. 18. "This one who made the pound into no more than five may be regarded as representing such as receive merely an entrance, without any of the 'abundantly,' connected therewith. There are some who will be saved yet so as by fire and others who will have salvation in fulness; some who will have little personal holiness on which to graft the life of the future, and who shall thus be in a lower place in heaven for evermore, enjoying its blessedness as thoroughly as they are competent to do, yet having there a position analogous, it may be, though of course not at all identical with that of the Gibeonites of old in the promised land." (Josh. 9 : 21.)—Dr. W. M. Taylor.

And another came, saying, Lord, behold here is thy pound, which I kept laid up in a napkin: for I feared thee, v. 20. "He thought it was enough to do no harm. He lost everything by an unbelieving anxiety to lose nothing. He was so afraid of doing anything amiss, that he did nothing at all. He would make no venture, and run no risk, even when his master bade him." The man who will not do his duty for fear of making