

IV.

Readiness for His Coming

In the third place, let us consider what is the proper conduct of the believer in view of the Lord's coming. From chapter 24, verse 44, to chapter 25 and verse 30, the Master gives Himself to the presentation of this phase of His subject. He instructs the disciples and us not only in the signs and times of His coming, but He also teaches us how to be ready when He does come. He introduces this phase of His theme by using an illustration of the householder and thief. Being ignorant of the exact time when the robber would come, the householder slept, and though he had the earnest desire to protect his property, he was unable to do so. He woke in the morning and found Himself robbed. But suppose notice had been given the householder of the time of the thief's intended visit, then he would have armed himself and kept watch, and being prepared, would have suffered no loss. "Such," says our Lord, "is the position you, My disciples, occupy. You have the advantage over the householder in that you have been advised that I am coming suddenly and secretly. You will therefore be inexcusable if you are not ready." Can temporal interests keep a man awake? Shall not eternal interests at stake urge the Christian to watchful-