

while he slept, and his goods have been stolen. Our Lord says, in effect: "Now if this man had known when the thief would come, you can be sure that he would not have been sleeping at that particular time. He would have been wide-awake and alert, and the thief would not have succeeded in breaking up his house." The illustration stresses the attitude which the Lord wants all Christians to take. He does not wish their service to be sporadic. He desires them to be constantly alert and vigilant and wide-awake, lest their testimony be injured.

Only one verse is devoted to the illustration of the householder. Its object is to bring out one vital point. We should not attempt to fit all its aspects to the actual situation, for no illustration can be expected to fit in every point.

Verse 44. This is our Golden Text. Its thought proceeds directly from the illustration of the householder. "Similarly," He says, "you do not know when the Son of Man is coming, and consequently it is necessary that you should always be ready, for He will come at a time when you least expect Him."

4. The Illustration of the Good and Evil Servants, vv. 45-51.

Our next illustration is given at far greater length than the preceding one, as is natural, since it has a much greater similarity to the actual situation of the Christian. He is a servant, to whom the Lord has given certain duties to perform. The Lord has gone away for a time, and the servant should be ready for His return, whenever it may occur.

Verse 46. "Blessed is that servant whom his Lord, when He cometh, shall find so doing." Verse 45 told us what this "so doing" was. It consisted in giving food in season to the members of the household. Each Christian has a duty to distribute the bread of life, giving the message of salvation to those who are