

## Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. 1  
MARCH 8, 1904.

*Commentary—1/21 The duty of watchfulness.*

*Text—Matthew 24:43-44. Beware of the servants of the east, which those who were most trusty before them en- gaged unto them.*

*M. Ogle M. Ogle—The master had com- manded them to be ready.*

*Analysis—Under analysis about temporal affairs, v. 22-23. The master gives an administration plan, peacefulness, etc. The active, diligent, determined, ready, etc., all hindrances be- taken out of the way—Clarke.*

*Lights burning. The minister was of the watchful laborer of the night, and in order to be ready to receive him their lights must be burning.*

*(1) The wedding. The ceremony was conducted with great pomp. The ceremony was performed in the night. The festivity lasted from three to seven days. There was a wedding supper.*

*These servants waited with gilded*

*joins and burning lights, ready to meet their master and run his bidding as soon as he approached.*

*so we are to wait for the coming*

*of our Master. Wait with eager*

*longing and (2) With joyous expec-*

*tation. May open... Immediately—*

*they will have to get ready! They will*

*need time to collect themselves*

*and dress—Blessed! Those who are ready*

*are blessed and highly honored by*

*their master. When He cometh*

*Christ will return to all from the*

*heavens, waiting at the end of the*

*world, when He has taken us to*

*eternal life.* His servants suddenly

*before a man at the hour of death—Hark! Come! Shall I*

*strangle?—We must be watchful*

*against temptations from within and without.*

*(3) Against providing iniquities*

*which fill the air with moral mala-*

*cties, and even fill the pews of the*

*church against failure in duty;*

*against the loss of the warmth of*

*love against the day of judgment.*

*2.0 To sin—against them when*

*they come and himself—serve them*

*whatever we do for God He will*

*reward us. It is unusual*

*for masters to wait upon their ser-*

*vants, but believe Christ was among*

*His disciples as we have observed.*

*See John xiii. 15, 25. The second*

*third watch—The Jews had adopted the Roman custom*

*dividing the night into four watches.*

*The first watch was from six to nine,*

*the second from nine to twelve,*

*the third from twelve to three,*

*the fourth from three to six.*

*3.0 Dead known, next hour—The*

*householder's ignorance of the time*

*when the thief would come is the*

*reason why he does not watch. He*

*cannot always keep awake, so he has*

*to go to sleep and is robbed. Would*

*he have watched? In the east the*

*state punishes, but leaves the pre-*

*vention and detection of theft and*

*robbery to the individual arrested.*

*Hence the watchman is necessary and*

*important everywhere.* 40. Be ye

*therefore ready—Always ready, so*

*she will never be taken unawares.*

*"Watchfulness insures readiness;*

*readiness insures safety. Indiffer-*

*ence breeds the devil in him and de-*

*spairs.* A scriptural preparation in-

*scriptural penitence and conversion.*

*Cometh—When ye think not—See*

*I. Thess. vi. 20; 1 Pet. 3:10. We*

*should not resist the temptation to*

*spiritual drowsiness. Nothing is much*

*worse than a sleepy religion (Rev.*

*18, 19).*

*II. The faithful servant rewarded*

*(vs. 41-44).*

*41. Faithful and wise steward*

*He was the middle person be-*

*tween master and slave, and had*

*the care of the whole household. It*

*was a post of confidence in which*

*caution and honest service make*

*the world.*

*42. Faithful and wise steward*

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*43. Blessed. He is blessed in his*

*deed; he rejoices because he is found*

*in the faithful performance of his du-*

*ties. He is blessed in his*

*high promotion. Shall find go-*

*ing—We see here what Christ means*

*by watching and testing up to the*

*heavens for signs—To be a good*

*person, even now (1 Cor. 3: 21).*

*Abbott, who was omitted and*

*denied.*

*44. The professed servant pun-*

*ished. vs. 41-44. Say in his*

*heart—If instead of being faith-*

*ful, the servant begins to plan wick-*

*edness, and to actually enter into*

*sin, a different "portion" will be*

*appointed him upon his Lord's re-*

*turn. Delayed. His coming—the*

*fact that he is coming—Delayed*

*because he loves many to*

*wax gold. II. Pet. iii. 3-4. To eat*

*and drink. Self-indulgence is a very*

*common sin. To be a profligate is*

*not only a common and very de-*

*structive sin in Christ's time, but*

*it is the same to-day. When he*

*looketh not—The Lord will come sud-*

*denly and call everyone to an ac-*

*count. In sudden trials was a most*

*terrible method of executing crime*

*and punishment.*

*45. Which knew—Ether the actual*

*or received information or, virtu-*

*ally, because the revelation was*

*with God's reach—Whedon, the*

*Abbot, who was omitted and*

*denied.*

*46. Those who have*

*many sins who are often*

*warned, who have clear gospel light*

*and yet do not reform—will be far*

*more severely punished than others*

*Barnes, 48. That knew not. That*

*knew not fully, for there is no such*

*thing as absolute moral ignorance,*

*etc.*

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*50. Which knew—Ether the actual*

*or received information or, virtu-*

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*51. Which knew—Ether the actual*

*or received information or, virtu-*

*ally, because the revelation was*</p