

not know when Christ will come. This imminence of the Lord's return is much stressed in the New Testament. Verse after verse in the gospels quotes statements of our Lord in which He stressed the fact that our attitude is to be one of constant readiness for His coming. This is not, of course, the primary motive of Christian service. One who realizes that God has created him for a purpose ought certainly to be anxious to fulfill that purpose. Unfortunately, most of the world does not have this desire, but has turned away from God, the Creator. One who has been redeemed from this evil world through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ ought certainly to be so grateful to Christ that he would be anxious to serve Him loyally at every possible moment. Yet we find many Christians who grow slothful and careless. There is an additional motive given in the fact that God knows everything at all times. He is always present with us, and this is emphasized at various places in the Scripture. In our present verse a fourth motive is given, and it is one which is stressed a great deal in these discourses of our Lord (cf. Luke 12:35-48). / ^{He wants} His people, as a fourth motive for constant, faithful service to Him, to realize that His return will come unexpectedly, like a sudden bolt of lightning. Will He find us faithful when He comes?

3. The Illustration of the Householder, vv. 43-44.

In the first section of our lesson, our Lord stressed the absolute certainty of His return. In the second section, He emphasized its unexpectedness and pointed out the attitude which He wished His followers to take. In the remaining two sections of the lesson, He gave illustrations to impress this attitude upon our minds and hearts. The first of these illustrations is found in verse 43. In very brief fashion, the verse suggests a situation. It is a miniature parable. A man's house has been broken into