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The Parables of Jesus Christ: Watch and Work, for We Know Not When

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE FORTY-FOUR: Watch and Work, for We Know Not When (Mt. 24:42-44; Mk. 13:32-37)

SURVEY

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Mt. 24:42-44)

SIGNIFICANCE

The phrases, *be on guard*, *be alert*, and *watch*, are found four times in this short parable, more often than in any other one.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Both Paul and Peter may have had this parable in mind when they wrote the following:

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thess. 5:2-3). "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (1 Pet. 3:10).