

While Men Slept

Matthew 13:24-30

While Men Slept

• Many disastrous events in History occurred while men slept.

- September 12, 1759 - In Quebec, the French headquarters in Canada was under attack by England. While the French slept, the British scaled the north wall along the St. Lawrence seaway, and at early dawn, caught the French unprepared and won the battle. The North American continent came under the control of Britain.
- December 26, 1776, while men slept, General Washington led 2,500 men across the Delaware River at Trent, New Jersey, and swept a victory for American independence.
- While men slept, the Medes and Persians entered and conquered Babylon and Belshazzar the king was slain. (cf. Daniel 5:30)

While Men Slept

Some Men Sleep Like Jonah.

- Many today are like Jonah as far as their own souls are concerned.
 - We cannot flee from God. Jeremiah 23:23-24; Psalms 139:1-2
 - The danger is great, but they are asleep regarding it all.
 - Their sin is raging like a hurricane.
- Many today are like Jonah as far as the souls of others are concerned.
 - God's Message must be preached. Jonah 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:2-4; Acts 20:26-27
- Paul's admonition needs to be heeded:
 - Ephesians 5:14, "*Wherefore (he) saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine upon thee.*" cf. Romans 13:11ff

While Men Slept

Some Sleep Like The Disciples Of Jesus In The Garden. Mark 14:32-42

- Jesus had plainly told His disciples several times that He would suffer and die. Matthew 16:21-23
- Today some are exhausted and worn down spiritually.
- Proverbs 24:10, "*If thou faint in the day of adversity, Thy strength is small.*"
- There is a need to be watchful, for the enemy will attack in our weakest moments.
- We need to be alert and watchful. Luke 18:1; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:13
- Remember, our enemy the devil never sleeps. 1 Peter 5:8

While Men Slept

• Some Sleep The Sleep Of Samson.

- Constant enticements broke Samson's will. Judges 16:5; 7ff; 11ff; 13ff; 15ff
- "*Pressed him daily.*" Judges 16:15-16
- Sin's first allurements must be resisted! Proverbs 1:10-16; 4:14-15
- Evil companions. 1 Corinthians 15:33
- When "*his soul was vexed to death,*" he told Delilah all. Judges 16:16-22
- Many today, like Samson, are charmed by someone or something of this world. cf. 1 John 2:15ff

While Men Slept

Some Sleep The Sleep Of The Sluggard. Proverbs 24:30-34

- Today many are lazy, inactive, and are not working.
 - Must learn to work. Lamentations 3:27, "*It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*"
 - Work or go hungry. Proverbs 18:9, "*He also that is slack in his work is brother to him that is a destroyer.*" cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8
- Some are lazy about the Lord's work. cf. Haggai and Nehemiah.
 - With no work to do, they often begin to bite and devour one another. cf. Nehemiah 5; Galatians 5:15
- NOTE: Galatians 6:7-10

While Men Slept

Others Sleep The Sleep Of Carelessness. Ephesians 5:14-17

- They do not understand what the will of the Lord is, nor do they want to understand it. cf. 2 Timothy 3:1-13
- They need to be brought to life by the gospel. Ephesians 2:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; cf. Acts 26:16-20
- There is a lot of carelessness in the church. 1 Corinthians 11:30
- Let us not sleep as does the world. 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8
- God's people are to be sober and vigilant at all times. 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8-9

While Men Slept

- The enemy came and sowed tares. Matthew 13:25
- Let us be awake, alert, and watchful.
 - The enemy is always awake and active.
- Many are living in illusion, thinking they are awake spiritually, but they are asleep; they have slipped into spiritual poverty.
 - cf. the Prodigal Son. Luke 15

While Men Slept - Conclusion

Romans 13:11-14, *"And this, knowing the season, that already it is time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we (first) believed. The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day; not in revelling and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to (fulfil) the lusts (thereof)."*