

Don't think it can only happen in poor Third World countries, people all over the World are suffering financial failure, and anyone with something to steal is fair game, no matter where they are!

18. But if you don't even have a fence that they can't jump over and you don't even lock your doors, you're apt to get some unwelcome visitors! If they know you're careless, they'll figure you're careless about where you keep your money too, and that man was. All the robber had to do was walk across the living room into his room and there it was sitting openly on the floor!

19. Jesus Himself said, "A strong man armed keepeth his goods in peace!" So what did Jesus mean by that? You need to be strong. To be strong is to be watchful and to be wise. Not just strong and able to beat him up or shoot him, but to be strong in spirit, strong in prayer, strong in security, strong in watchfulness!—Armed!

20. We don't have to have guns to be armed, we've got clubs! You don't have to be armed with guns, you can be armed with wariness!—Not weariness, wariness!—Being security-conscious! You can be armed with good walls & good fences! You can be armed with good night security lighting! You can be well-armed with protection of every kind without having to shoot guns!

21. I can never forget the time Fred Shultz scared off that intruder who picked the lock and got in the front door. He was just feeling around in the dark down in the livingroom and fell over a chair! Fred rushed out of his upstairs bedroom and in the semi-darkness he took this golf club and pointed it down over the railing of the stairway and said, "You take one more step and I'm going to blow your head off!" The guy ran out that door as fast as he could go!

22. But we need to be watchful, wary, cautious, security-conscious, very careful and very prayerful, particularly you folks who go to the gate. That is a dangerous job! We've been very liberal & rather careless lately, but in view of this thing that's just happened, I'm sorry, but I think the Lord's trying to warn us to be more security conscious from now on!

23. I've mentioned a few times to some of you boys that it's better to answer the gate from a distance first. That way you're not there in person where they can stick a gun or a knife in your ribs!

ARMED ROBBERY!—NOT JUST AN ACCIDENT!

24. I don't consider that just an accident! With as little security as they had, they were asking for it, they were literally begging for it! They were like the guy who left something out, tempting the thief to steal! They were tempting them to do it with as little security as they had! And then she led him right into the finance man's room where his briefcase full of money was sitting right there on the floor, obvious as can be! Sorry to keep you so long, but it might save your life! It might even save your money!

25. He wasn't a burglar, remember. A burglar tries to creep in & steal while you're there, with a gun ready for you in case you wake up. He burgles, he tries to come in & steal it without waking you up, but he's prepared to shoot you in case you do wake up. Many people have gotten shot in bed that way.

26. But this was what's called a stickup, or in the technical language of the law, armed robbery! He was armed & he was intent on robbing them. He didn't have to work very hard to get it, they told him right where it was & he got it!

FINAL MISTAKE—THEY DIDN'T WITNESS TO HIM!

27. As far as we now know, they never said a word to the thief about Jesus, or witnessed to him or even said, "We're missionaries, poor missionaries!" You know what the guy said to him? He said, "What are you doing, stealing?" What a self-righteous, condemnatory remark!—Not a word about Love or Jesus! They never witnessed to him, they never even told him that they were missionaries or Christians, or he might have left the money!