

No, He rebukes the proud Pharisee, who was judging the woman in selfrighteousness, and accredits the faith of which her tears and kisses and her alabaster box were the proof. Her sins were "many," and perhaps she could not have said they were forgiven, but she could trust the heart of Jesus. She could have said: "Though I am utterly vile, and He infinitely holy, yet He has not repelled me; He has not said, as the Pharisees, stand aside for I am holier than thou. Though He be "holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners; yet I have read in Him a heart that will not turn the vilest away who come to Him in their need. I can trust Him." And knowing the greatness of the burden she had brought to Him—"her sins which were many"—and for which the discovery of faith could trust Him, "she loved much." And this love of hers, begotten by love immeasurably greater in Him, manifested itself, lavishly, as she told it out at His feet in the Pharisees' house. And Jesus would have them know the grace that had answered this woman's faith, and openly declares to them, "Her sins, which were many, are forgiven." Nor was it enough that He should rebuke the reasonings of selfrighteousness; He will also speak the word to *her*, that will send her away with a glad heart, a heart relieved of its heavy burden, and filled with the "peace" which He alone could give. "And He said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven." And if this blessed

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