

of the farm, and the lad waited in fear and trembling while his father went for the strap or the whip. When he came back with it, to the lad's astonishment he took off his own coat and bared his back. Then he put the strap into the boy's hand and said, "Lay it on me." The lad demurred and would not do it at first, but the old man compelled him to lay the strap on his back. That lad never sinned in the same way again. That is what God did on the Cross. He shows us what our sin means to Him—what the recoil of it upon Himself, the shock of enduring it in Himself, means to Him. The Cross is the revelation of God bearing our sin in order that He might forgive us and restore us to Himself. You remember that when the woman came into the house of Simon the Pharisee and broke the alabaster box of ointment upon the Master's feet, He spoke a parable to Simon, the meaning of which is that sin is to be regarded as a bad debt, and the forgiveness of it as the writing off of a bad debt. But one cannot write off a debt without paying it oneself. When a creditor writes off a bad debt he takes it upon himself.