

bathed them with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head. You did not salute me when I came in, but she has incessantly kissed my feet. You offered me not the accustomed oil to anoint my *head* with; but she has annointed my *feet* with costly ointment. The reason of all this is: the height of her gratitude arises from a sense of the forgiveness of multiplied transgressions; but he who has received pardon of fewer sins, is seldom found to be very zealous in his acknowledgements.

*Hanani.* What could he mean by these remarks? Did Simon make any reply to them?

*Ithiel.* No: all of us were silent, and stared at each other. The only person present, who seemed to understand this discourse, was the poor woman, in whose countenance I could discover mingled emotions of joy and thankfulness, especially when Jesus addressing her, said, "Woman, thy sins are pardoned."

*Hanani.* Her sins pardoned! What authority has this man to pardon sin? I thought that had been the prerogative of God alone.

*Ithiel.* So thought the guests, and were going to express their wonder, when Jesus again said to the woman, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

*Hanani.* The language and conduct of this man greatly surprise me; he speaks and acts, as if he were invested with supreme authority. Those who have heard his discourses in public, say, that he widely differs from the expounders of our law, in as much as he speaks with an energy and decision, and at the same time with a simplicity and affection, rarely to be found among them. He avoids all mystery, and brings every thing down to the level of the meanest understanding. He speaks of our sacred writings with great reverence, and quotes them as the inspirations of the Almighty; but disregards all the comments of our learned scribes, and refuses the authority of the traditions of the fathers.

*Ithiel.* Your character of him as a teacher is just; only there is one peculiarity you have not noticed, which is, that he carefully avoids treating of matters merely speculative, his whole aim evidently being, to raise the standard of morals, to reform the conduct of men, and to purify their minds from gross and unhallowed passions. Whatever be his object, the common people hear him with enthusiasm; this morning they were flocking in crowds to our temple, before the sun arose, on purpose to listen to his instructions.—*Edinburgh Evangelical Magazine.*