

had forgotten, or neglected? Why does she reverently kiss them, and anoint them with the ointment? Ah! she is a sinner, and she has found the sinner's friend. How she came to know Him we are not told, but in some way, through His words, or through His acts, faith had made the discovery. He was *her* Friend. Vile, wretched, polluted, detested and shunned by Pharisee and scribe, without friend or helper in the world, she had discovered a Friend, an almighty and gracious Friend, in the despised Jesus. Had He not said, when the unbelief of the Jews was manifest, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John vi., 37). Here was a poor wretched sinner, without a friend among men, drawn by a sense of her own desperate need, drawn indeed into the presence of infinite holiness, but drawn by infinite love; and vile as she was He would not turn her away; nay, He would cleanse her, and He would go to the cross to do it, because she was one given by His Father, when Pharisees and scribes, would not, and could not, come, because of unbelief. Ah! yes, she had found a Friend, a Friend in need, a Friend indeed. It was this discovery of faith, that opened her heart, and made her weep, and with willing hands break the alabaster box.

And now, in the presence of her judges, will He allow that faith to pass unnoticed and unacknowledged? Far be it from Him to do this.