

LESSON VII.

JESUS AT THE PHARISEE'S HOUSE

May 13, 1900

Luke 7: 36-50. Commit to memory vs. 44-47. Read Matt. 18: 23-25.

36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he¹ went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37 And, behold, a woman² in the city, ³ which was a sinner, ⁴ when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, ⁵ brought an alabaster⁶ box of ointment,

38 And⁷ stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: ⁹ for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he¹² frankly

Revised Version—¹ Entered; ² Which was; ³ Omit which was; ⁴ And when she knew that he was sitting; ⁵ She; ⁶ Cruse; ⁷ Standing; ⁸ behind at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; ⁹ Perceived; ¹⁰ That; ¹¹ A certain lender had; ¹² When they had not wherewith; ¹³ Omit frankly; ¹⁴ Which of them therefore will love; ¹⁵ The; ¹⁶ Wetted; ¹⁷ Her tears; ¹⁸ Her hair; ¹⁹ She; ²⁰ Even forgiveth sins also.

EXPLANATION

Connection—In the last Lesson, Jesus gave the beautiful promise of rest. In this Lesson He gives a practical illustration of His meaning by giving the rest of forgiveness to a restless, sinful soul. This woman is not to be confounded with Mary Magdalene, nor the incident with that of Matt. 26: 6-13, a year and a half later.

36-38. One of the Pharisees. A sect of narrow formalists, who had lost all spiritual ideas. This man's name was Simon (v. 40), a name applied to fifteen different persons in the New Testament. **Sat down.** Reclined on a couch, the feet outward from the table. **A woman . . . which was a sinner;** a poor unfortunate, whom everybody despised. She had received blessing from Jesus, and now she wishes to show her gratitude and love. In the East, strangers come in freely to see and converse with the guests. **Alabaster box.** A vase made of alabaster. Pliny compares them to a closed rosebud. **Ointment.** A very precious perfume. **Weeping.** The thought of her sins overcame her. **With tears;** "a thunder shower of tears." **The hairs of her head.** "To have her hair flowing would be deemed immodest." (Bruce.) **Kissed his feet;** again and again, as the word signifies.

39-41. Spake within himself; was silently criticizing. **If he were a prophet.** He thought a prophet should be able to read the thoughts and character of others. **Jesus answering.** He read Simon's thoughts, and thus showed that He was indeed a

ly forgave them both. ¹³ Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave ¹⁴ most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet; but she hath ¹⁵ washed my feet with ¹⁶ tears, and wiped them with ¹⁷ the hairs of her head.

45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but ¹⁸ this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint; but ¹⁹ this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that ²⁰ forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

prophet. **A certain creditor.** God is the creditor in the parable, and sinners are the debtors (Matt. 6: 12). **Five hundred pence.** The penny or denarius was worth about seventeen cents.

42, 43. Frankly forgave; freely and graciously. **Thou hast rightly judged.** And his judgment condemned himself, for he thought he had little need of forgiveness, and, as a result, he had little love for God.

44-46. Seest thou this woman? Jesus would give him an object lesson of love and gratitude. **No water;** to wash the dust-stained feet—a common Eastern courtesy (Gen. 18: 4). **No kiss.** An Eastern token of respect. (Gen. 27: 27.) **My head, etc.** It was usual to anoint with oil the heads of guests. Everything that Simon ought to have done and did not, the poor woman did, and much more.

47. Wherefore; an inference from Simon's own words. (v. 43.) **I say unto you;** "What Jesus firmly believes, and Simon very much needs to be told." (Bruce.) **She loved much;** a proof that it was many sins that had been forgiven. **The same loveth little.** He who thinks his sin is small, will have small love, even though he believes his sin forgiven.

48-50. Thy sins are forgiven; words spoken to strengthen her faith. **Began to say;** the old charge of Mark 2: 7. **Go in peace;** into the enjoyment of peace. (Rom. 5: 1.) It was not her tears, but her trust, which brought peace.