

Lesson Word-Picture.

"Ah, here he comes!" says Simon, the Pharisee, peeping through the lattice of one of his windows. "Here comes the Nazarene I asked to dine with me. He is making so much stir I would really like to see him here and have my friends meet him. He is bright and can say clever things, and doubtless will say something that will interest. He is very pretentious and thinks he is something of a prophet, but we shall see. There he is, going in! I will let him take care of himself, and go down to meet my two old friends, Zebulon and Zadok."

And what a welcome Zebulon and Zadok do get! Servants run almost frantically to bring water cleansing and cooling. And, with a passionate outburst of friendship, Simon rushes up and kisses most tenderly his two old darlings.

How different is the reception given to the Nazarene! No cooling, cleansing water for him, though his feet burn with the hot way. No eager, impulsive kiss from his host. Simon does see him. He nods his head coolly. He tells a servant to give the Nazarene a couch at the long guest-table. It is off where it cannot offend the supercilious Pharisees present. The feast goes on. Simon watches Jesus narrowly. The Nazarene has been very silent, but doubtless he will say something that will entertain the guests, Simon hopes. Simon watches. But Simon soon has eyes for something else. If a woman has not quietly slipped into the guest-room, and a sinful woman too! She has a little package under her robe. She steps forward to the couch where Jesus is lying, and, stooping, begins to cry.

"She weeps over his feet, does she?" queried Simon. "A very singular transaction!"

He looks again.

"Why, she seems to be bathing his feet with her tears! What is the matter?"

She weeps again and again upon those neglected feet, and now she unbinds all her long, rich, soft, warm tresses of hair, lifts them, and, as if a towel, folds them about the Saviour's feet and wipes them. Then she kisses his feet.

And now how sweet an odor is wafted to Simon! From Zebulon and Zadok? Never!

What spice garden is it that suddenly breathes its fragrance into the guest-room?

"That woman has brought an alabaster-box of ointment with her," says Simon. "And she anoints his feet! Ah, I recognize her now! A very common, low sort of woman! She is a woman that is a sinner. Is the Nazarene aware of it? If aware of it he makes no opposition to it. What will Zebulon and Zadok say? Anointing that Nazarene's feet? O, shame! Pollution! Does he know? If he knew so very much he would see through this woman, he—"

"Simon!"

Clear, impressive, authoritative, rings out the voice of Jesus.

Simon looks up.

"Master, say on!" but Simon does not say it very graciously.

Then Jesus tells a story about two debtors. Simon has been waiting for a bright saying from the Nazarene, and, perhaps, now he will get it. Yes, it was worth hearing, as all the world knows.

Again comes a searching, ringing address to Simon, "Seest thou this woman?"

See? Simon can seem to see nothing else. And then are heard the words of Jesus, laying Simon's conduct by the side of the woman's.

She is forgiven!

What?

Look at her lifted face! See her love shining through her tears! Her beautiful, disheveled hair, her box of perfume—all, in her absorbing attention to the Saviour, are forgotten.

The woman soon is gone. The muttering guests, angry Zebulon and Zadok, all are gone. Simon is left alone, recalling that eventful supper and Love's generous benediction upon the penitent and loving.

Blackboard.



CENTRAL THOUGHT. Illustrated by the blackboard: "Love and Forgiveness." The heart of a sinner is filled with sin; but when he repents, and is saved by the grace of God, then the evil in the heart is blotted out, and Christ is all in all.

SIDE THOUGHT. A holy life, Christ-like in compassion and charity, attracts even the sinner. Publicans and sinners sought the company of Christ, for he drew all men unto him. The once poor sinner told of in today's lesson loved him with the purity of a forgiven soul, and her fast falling tears were but a humble expression of penitence for the past. When sin leaves the heart there is joy in heaven, even though it be gone from the vilest of sinners. Let each one of us, as followers of Christ, try so to live that the beauty of our lives will attract others to the Saviour, and not, as the Pharisee, thank God we are not as other men are. Illustrate by using a magnet to show attractive power.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Jesus the Friend of Sinners.*

This lesson may be divided into three separate parts. Many a teacher, who is distressed by a lack of attention on the part of the little ones, fails to secure attention simply because she forgets that continuity of thought is impossible to young children. Food must be given to young minds in small portions.

The Dinner Party. Have ready on the board a picture of an Oriental table. It is best to keep the picture covered until you are ready to use it. Tell how people sat, or rather reclined, at table while eating. Explain the custom of taking off sandals upon entering a house, and washing the dust from the feet. Tell how Simon, a Pharisee, invited Jesus to eat with him. Make straight marks to indicate the places of the guests, using a J for the place where Jesus sat.

The Sorrowful Woman. A woman came to the dinner-party who was not invited. She had been a very wicked woman, but had seen and heard Jesus, and was sorry for her sins. Uncover a picture of an alabaster box, and tell what the woman did with the costly ointment.

Did she waste to show love to his heart. Jesus that the woman that love can v white lily. To show a little out of such comes to him darkest earth-



is no sin too want to be w Simon though nothing for his forgiveness, heart. Pride appropriate v stance, "Wh "The water

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Reference: ments; rec feet, 765... 7895, 9152, 38; Poetic 3757; Prose, 530, Vers. Prose, 324 Prose, 2978 Ver. 48; P 866, 8807,

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