

*Itziel.* I wish you had; especially as a singular occurrence served in some degree to develope his character.

*Hanani.* What was that?

*Itziel.* While we were at supper, a profligate woman, a daughter of Belial, one of those foreign women, who live a life of lewdness, entered the chamber. I marked her approach. Her look was down-cast, abashed and timid. For a while she hesitated apparently whether to draw near or not, at length spying the couch on which the stranger reclined, she came forward, and kneeling behind it at his feet, she bathed them with her tears, wiped them with the hairs of her head, kissed them repeatedly with great affection and anointed them with some precious ointment which she had purposely brought.

*Hanani.* How did Jesus act on the occasion?

*Itziel.* Why the eyes of all the guests were turned upon the woman—all seemed at a loss what to think of her behaviour. Our host Simon, appeared thoughtful, as if he was muttering something with himself, as much as to say, “I wonder this man who has the character of being a prophet, and should therefore know the quality of this woman, would allow her to use these familiarities with him, lest any might defame him, for she is an abandoned woman.” Indeed the very same sentiments occurred to my own mind. After a silence of some minutes, during which the feelings of the woman seemed to be very acute, the stranger to our great surprise, as if he had known by intuition, all that had passed in our landlord’s mind, addressed him thus, “Simon I have a question to put to thee?” Simon answered, “Master, say on.” On which Jesus said, “A certain person had two debtors; one owed him five hundred denarii, the other fifty. Neither of them being in a condition to discharge the debt he freely remitted both. Now tell me Simon, which of the two will be most grateful?” Simon replied, “Most likely he to whom most was remitted.”—Jesus approved the reply, and turning to the woman, who all this time exhibited great anxiety and agitation he said, “Do you see this woman? Here is an instance of the very case I just now proposed to you; you (like the debtor of the fifty denarii) do not consider yourself as under any great obligation to me, and therefore you have received me, as men receive a common acquaintance. This poor woman again, (like the debtor of five hundred denarii) thinks herself unspeakably obliged to me, and cannot do enough to testify her gratitude. When I came into your house, you did not even show me the ordinary civility of offering me water to wash my feet: but she has