

FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

The sinner of the city forgiven. (Luke vii).

IN this scripture we have a case of conscious guilt, where the sense of need had drawn a wretched creature to the "Friend of sinners." And here too we find the Pharisees, with the lawyers, and their wise reasonings. They had rejected John the Baptist, and now they reject Jesus. They said John the Baptist had a devil, and that Jesus was "a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!" (Luke vii., 29-34). This was the wisdom of men which is foolishness with God (1 Cor. i., 20). These worldly-wise reasoners were not the children of Wisdom. "But Wisdom is justified of all her children," and in this sinner of the city we have an exemplification of this. She was a true child of Wisdom, and showed herself wise where Pharisees and lawyers exposed their own folly.

The scene is laid in a Pharisee's house, where Jesus is invited to dine. Jesus reclines at the table, with His feet on the couch. A woman enters with an alabaster box of ointment, and stands at Jesus' feet, behind Him, weeping. She washes His feet with tears, wipes them with the hairs of her head, kisses His feet, and anoints them with ointment. What does it all mean? What has broken open the fountains of that heart? Why does she rain hot tears on those feet, and wash them—a courtesy the Pharisee

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