

it as other than a vast and astonishing extravagance. "Of course," so they might say in their hearts, "the ointment belonged to the woman and she had the right to do as she pleased with it. But would it not have been wiser to have used it more sparingly? A few drops, a very few, of nard so fragrant and refreshing would have been amply sufficient for a single application. Why did she not shed these few drops upon Him and then, if she so desired, present Him with the remainder for future use? But she has deluged Him with it. She has poured out the last drop. And upon His feet! They are fairly soaked with it. Has she not made a towel of her hair and wiped His feet He would have experienced actual discomfort from the anointing." Thus might even friendly guests have reasoned if they happened to be lacking in imagination.

And the recipient of the lavishment, what has He to say? He, who, a little while before had restrained Love's prodigality? May we not expect that He will break out now in protest? The expenditure on the former occasion, though lavish, was much less than this. The value of this box of ointment would represent the cost of several suppers, each of them as