

journey and such a task. She could not have been there. Faith, or light and knowledge, forbade her. But Magdalene and others are there, and the angels and the Lord of angels will meet them there, though Mary cannot.*

Oh the sweet and sure truth which all this illustrates in days of distraction like these! Disciples are now separated, through divers measures of light and knowledge, like these women of faith and love; but those who, though in the place where faith would not have them, are yet where love had sent them, shall know something of heaven and of the presence of Jesus.

Well to know the meltings of pity over sorrow according to love, and well to know the gladdening of hope over sorrow according to faith. But the spices of the women at the tomb were but as grave-clothes; the box of spikenard of the woman of Bethany was an ivory palace. Faith used it in anticipation. The humbled Jesus was then to faith the anointed King, and faith was saying, "while the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof." (Cant. i. 12.)

I may add, the wise men of the east had ivory palaces for the Babe at Bethlehem, their faith treating Him as the King of the Jews, the enthroned God of Psalm xlv. Beautiful faith that was indeed, and somewhat kindred with hers who

* I am aware that some distinguish this woman from the Mary of John xii. 1-8. It may be so, but it makes no difference as to my purpose in referring to it here. If different, neither the one nor the other, we may be sure, was at the sepulchre.