

shells, or beads. Among those better off, the girdle is a colored shawl, or a long piece of figured white muslin. As they have no pockets in their clothes, a broad wallet is attached to the girdle, and occasionally the leather belt is double, for a foot and a half from the buckle, and this forms a safe purse. The girdle braced the hip joints for special

exertion, even when it was not used to hold the cloak in position. The inkhorn of the scribe, with its black fluid, and its case for reed pens, was attached to the belt. As few clasp knives are used in the East, a sheath knife is carried in the girdle, and in the case of Bedouins, a sword of Damascus steel in a chased silver sheath.

### APPLICATION

*Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine*, v. 12. An employer of some thousands of men said the other day, that he had never had to deal with a strike. Other industries near his have been closed and under police protection for weeks because of labor troubles, but this man's factory wheels have run every working day since they were installed. The men have explained this absence of friction with their employer by saying that he is thoughtful for their welfare. He thinks of them in rush times, and rewards their efforts to help; and in dull times they are still with him. He studies their comfort and health in the construction and arrangements of the work rooms. The employer's explanation is, that he is a follower of Christ, and from such an act as this twelfth verse records he learned to think of men as men and not as machines. When we all learn that evil is wrought by want of thought as well as by want of heart, we shall study to help our fellow men by being thoughtful.

*Lovest thou me more than these?* v. 15. In Foxe's stories of the martyr days in Scotland there is an account of the young girl, Margaret

The Girl  
Martyr Wilson, who stood fast in spite of the ordinance that made her religious profession a crime.

The officers took her from her home, and kept her in prison for weeks. She was then told that if she gave up her faith, she would be sent back to her home. But she refused. Then food was denied her for some days. "Give up your belief, and you will get food." No, she would not. They tied her to a stake on the tide beach. As the waters rose about her, she was promised life if she would recant, but the offer was refused. Home, food, life, were arrayed against Christ, but, more than these, she loved Him, and the waters of the

Solway Firth separated her pure soul from her frail body, and she was with God. Unless we love Him more than all or anything else, our love is not love, but only a fickle admiration that can be bought from us.

*Feed my lambs. feed my sheep*, vs. 15, 16. Some time ago a man drove into town, having a box on his rough wagon. Standing beside the box, he guarded it all the way, and when he came to the stores, he watched the box while he did business with the people he had to see. At a street corner where he stood with the reins in his hand, his horses took fright. He sprang and caught them close to the bit, but they dragged him and struck him down. He held on until they were stopped, and then his hand relaxed and the crowd saw he was dying. "Why did you hold the brutes?" said one. "They were not worth your life, man", said another. "Look in the box", said the dying man. They looked, and found the farmer's little baby boy kicking up his heels on a straw bed.

*Follow me*, v. 19. A good man, and great, too, once said, "These words of Jesus to Peter have carried me through the darkest

hours of my spiritual life. "You Can Do That" They are great words. When the greatest problems of theology and religion have confounded my intelligence, and I have cried out with all the despair of Pilate, What is truth? I have heard those two words ringing through the awful silence: 'Follow Me; you can do that'. Yes, thank God, I could do that." And it was, and still is, enough. The Saviour will never deny you nor reproach you because of your ignorance, if you keep following Him. You may not understand all the Bible. Many doctrines of the church may puzzle you. Much about Him, you may find it hard to