

fact is that men cannot help loving Him when once they know Him and believe in what He has done for them. The want of love to Him proves want of faith in His word. There are two leading reasons for loving the Lord, and neither of them shows that by so doing we can acquire merit. The first reason is because of the Saviour's personal worth; the second is because He suffered death on the cross for us. It could not be because of the second reason that the woman which was a sinner loved Him for as yet He had not died; it must therefore have been for the first. She loved Him for His wondrous worth, and well she might, for He is the chiefest among ten thousand and it was the sense of that worth which drew her to the Pharisee's house and brought about her remarkable display of feeling. She knew that the Pharisee would regard her tears and her adoration of Jesus with scorn, but for that she cared nothing, and so her penitential tears flowed as freely and her adoration was as intense as if there had not been a Pharisee or a scribe within a distance of a hundred miles.

Love first descends and then it ascends. Its native home is heaven, its dwelling place is the heart of God. The love which now glowed in the heart of that guilty woman emanated from the heart of God and kindled love in her's; for we love Him because He first loved us (I John, iv, 10). Then that love re-ascended to God and thus there was mutual love, God loving her because it was His nature and the woman loving Him because He was worthy of all love. But it began with God and hence the lovely fruit which it produced. There was a divine order in it all, and the starting point was the love of God as manifested in the Person and words and actions of His Son.