

her as she bent over His feet. He saw that these ministrations to Him were in no way artificial, but were sincere, and that her tears and kisses were true signs of interior compunction. With a woman's keen instinct she could sense from His comments to the others present that not one of her loving acts had escaped His notice and attention. She realized that even though she had never been introduced to Him, yet He knew her. She knew that He knew everything about her. Also, she knew that He had accepted her and that He fully understood the reason and purpose of her presence there in Simon the Pharisee's home. And, for Mary Magdalen, the harlot, that was quite enough! The Lord saw her shame and her sorrow, and He saw quite clearly that there was no evil deceit in either her heart or her mind, and that there was a sublime honesty and simplicity in her every tear. For the first time in her life Mary Magdalen felt the feelings of peace and serenity. Like Magdalen let us take our past life with all of its failures and sins and dash it at the feet of Jesus, just exactly as Mary Magdalen did. In so doing, and with the same determination of turning, we can be sure of the mercy and forgiveness of God. There will be forgiveness! And the peace and joy and serenity which were extended to her, and the nobility of person which she now possessed, will in like manner be ours as well. She trusted! We must trust! She shed tears of true sorrow for her sins. We also must shed tears of true sorrow for our sins. She turned her eyes toward God. We must turn our eyes toward God. She made a firm determination never to sin again. So must we! She was forgiven. So will we be! □

(N.B.: This is not to be understood that after her CONVERSIO Mary Magdalen was never tempted again. Her temptations in all probability were stronger than ever before. This is the case with every soul committed to sanctity.)

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