**"I entered into thine house"**

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From the [November 2, 1946 issue](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1946/11/48-44) of the *Christian Science Sentinel*

**It** is surely of deep importance that Mary Baker Eddy, in "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," opens the chapter entitled "Christian Science Practice" with the story of Mary Magdalene, as recounted in the seventh chapter of Luke's Gospel. She dwells at some length on its significance in the healing ministry of the Christ, and then asks Christian Scientists to answer a solemn question by comparing the attitudes of mind governing the two characters in this moving story—Simon and Mary Magdalene—and to decide whether in their individual approach to Truth their motives are similar to those of the Pharisee or the Magdalen.

Pondering the spiritual significance of this inquiry, one realizes that the same question was placed before Simon by the Master. And the answer was indicated in Jesus' penetrating analysis of the mentality which had accorded him an ungenerous welcome in Simon's home.

"I entered into thine house," said the Master, addressing the unspoken questioning in the thought of his host. Then, with spiritual insight, he indicated three states of thought which Simon had failed to express, and which are necessary in order to welcome the Christ-presence. "Thou gavest me no water for my feet," the Master pointed out. The baptism of repentance had not taken place and there was no room in Simon's thought for the Christ to rest. Purification, that letting go of material sense and self which makes room for the heavenly visitant, had not begun.

In her article entitled "Pond and Purpose" in "Miscellaneous Writings" our Leader clearly shows the baptism of repentance to be the necessary preliminary to every forward footstep toward a clearer understanding of the Christ, man's spiritual nature as the expression of God. In so far as this baptism takes place in our consciousness, our motives and aims are purified and room is made for the healing presence of the Christ, which redeems and saves.

"Thou gavest me no kiss." The kiss of love and glad recognition was, therefore, lacking. It is love of the Christ that forwards repentance and opens the way for us to perceive man's true being as the son of God. Love for God and His Christ increases in our thought through the expression of unselfishness and pure affection. As this love gains in strength, it more and more evidences the nature of God, divine Love, the Love that sees only loveliness and brings instantaneous healing.

"My head with oil thou didst not anoint," takes on added meaning in the light of the definition of "oil" as "consecration; charity; gentleness; prayer; heavenly inspiration" (Science and Health, [p. 592](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=consecration%3B+charity%3B+gentleness%3B+prayer%3B+heavenly+inspiration&book=tfccs.main.sh)). These spiritual qualities lift human consciousness to the place of the anointed, where sin and resultant suffering are wiped out with forgiveness and man's birthright of dominion is made manifest.

How often, when spiritual healing is desired, the way would be shortened if these three essential steps, so clearly revealed by the Master and reiterated throughout her writings by Mrs. Eddy, were sincerely and prayerfully taken. Sometimes in our great desire for physical relief we shut out the healing Christ by failing to express the receptive qualities of meekness, affection, gentleness, and gratitude. These qualities in the heart of the Magdalen freed her from much that was unlovely. She loved much. And thus she made room for the unfoldment of her true selfhood, which ultimately enabled her to be the first to behold the Master after his resurrection.

When gladly undertaken, this spiritual preparation not only will help us to open the door of human consciousness for the Christ to enter, but will allow it to abide with us and lighten the path before us with its radiance.

The loving reminder, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" ([Rev. 3:20](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=Behold%2C+I+stand+at+the+door%2C+and+knock%3A+if+any+man+hear+my+voice%2C+and+open+the+door%2C+I+will+come+in+to+him%2C+and+will+sup+with+him%2C+and+he+with+me&book=tfccs.main.hb.kj)), is still being uttered. Mrs. Eddy repeats this appeal in the following words (Science and Health, [p. 224](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=A+higher+and+more+practical+Christianity%2C+demonstrating+justice+and+meeting+the+needs+of+mortals+in+sickness+and+in+health%2C+stands+at+the+door+of+this+age%2C+knocking+for+admission.&book=tfccs.main.sh)): "A higher and more practical Christianity, demonstrating justice and meeting the needs of mortals in sickness and in health, stands at the door of this age, knocking for admission."

It is for us to decide whether we shall open or close the door upon the Christ, Truth. The same solemn question which searches our motives and the quality of our love is as insistent today as it was when its true answer was so clearly pointed out by the Master when he was a guest in the house of Simon.