

Luke 7:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

Analysis

Second contrast: 'Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet' (Greek 'philēma moi ouk edōkas: hautē de aph' hēs eiselthon ou dielipen kataphilousa mou tous podas'). Greeting kiss was customary among friends—typically cheek-to-cheek. Simon's omission showed coldness. The woman's continuous kissing (present participle—kept kissing) of Jesus's feet (far more humble than cheek kiss) demonstrated passionate devotion. The verb 'kataphilousa' intensifies simple 'phileo'—fervently kissing. Her love manifested in sustained, humble, self-forgetting worship. Reformed theology sees here that genuine conversion produces observable transformation—from self-centered living to Christ-centered devotion.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean greeting kiss signified friendship and respect. Men kissed male friends; family kissed family. The absence of greeting kiss from Simon suggested cool reception. Judas's betrayal kiss (Luke 22:48) perverted this custom. The woman's foot-kissing exceeded normal practice, demonstrating extravagant humility. Early Christians greeted with 'holy kiss' (Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20), maintaining the custom with sacred significance. The contrast between Simon's absent kiss and the woman's continuous kisses illustrated different love levels.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do cultural expressions of honor and affection translate into worship practices?
2. What does sustained, continuous worship (not just momentary emotion) reveal about love's depth?
3. How might we neglect 'greeting' Jesus appropriately through prayer, worship, or obedience?

Interlinear Text

φίλημά μοι οὐ ἔδωκας· αὕτη δὲ ἀφ' ἣς εἰσῆλθον
kiss me no Thou gavest G846 but since the time I came in
G5370 G3427 G3756 G1325 G1161 G575 G3739 G1525

οὐ διέλιπεν καταφιλοῦσά μου τοὺς πόδας
no ceased to kiss my feet
G3756 G1257 G2705 G3450 G3588 G4228

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 15:5 (Parallel theme): And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

Romans 16:16 (Parallel theme): Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

2 Samuel 19:39 (Parallel theme): And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.

