

LACRIMA

Luke 7:37-39 *And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Yeshua sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. (KJV)*



TEAR-BOTTLES.—Psalm lvi. 8.

Luke 7:37-39 *And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining [at the table] in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind [Him] at His feet, weeping, **she began to wet His feet with her tears**, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner."*



How could this woman possibly have enough tears to wash Yeshua's feet, is the question? In those days there was a Jewish custom of saving the families tears in a container called the Lacrima. People would save the tears of their family members and pass them down from generation to generation. This woman Mary Magdalene, had a very bad life. She was a harlot. She had enough tears saved up to wash Yeshua's feet because she had a Lacrima jar that she poured out on Yeshua. The tears of a repentant generation and that of her own she poured out over the Messiah's feet for a sacrificial washing. We see King David refer to this tradition in **Ps. 56:8** *You have taken account of my wanderings; **Put my tears in Your bottle.** Are [they] not in Your book?* We know how much Yeshua cried when He was at Gethsemane. He cried so hard that His sweat became like drops of blood. We can read about it in **Luke 22:44** *And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and **His sweat became like drops of blood**, falling down upon the ground."* We

also see tears of oppression talked about in **Eccl. 4:1** *"Then I looked again at all the acts of oppression which were being done under the sun. **And behold I saw the tears of the oppressed** and that they had no one to comfort them; and on the side of their oppressors was power, but they had no one to comfort them".* And we see in **Ps. 126:5** that *"Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting."* **Ps. 6:6-7** *"I am weary with my*

sighing; **Every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears.** My eye has wasted away with grief; It has become old because of all my adversaries.” Lacrima is also the name of a thin skinned Italian grape that drips like tears when it is exposed to a lot of sunlight. It’s wine is called Lacrima wine.

It also reminds me of the old Smokey Robinson song, “The Tracks Of My Tears”, about someone crying so much they had tracks down their cheeks from the tears.

A point of interest here that we must not miss is the fact that the alabaster jar of perfume was worth a fortune. It is estimated that in those days it would have been equivalent to about \$40,000.00 worth of perfume that Miriam poured out over Yeshua. That’s why Judas commented on the value of the perfume. He was more concerned about money than Yeshua. **John 12:5-8** “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor people?” 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. 7 Yeshua therefore said, “Let her alone, in order that she may keep it for the day of My burial. 8 “For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me.” Miriam was a very rich woman, remember she supported Yeshua’s ministry for three years.

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