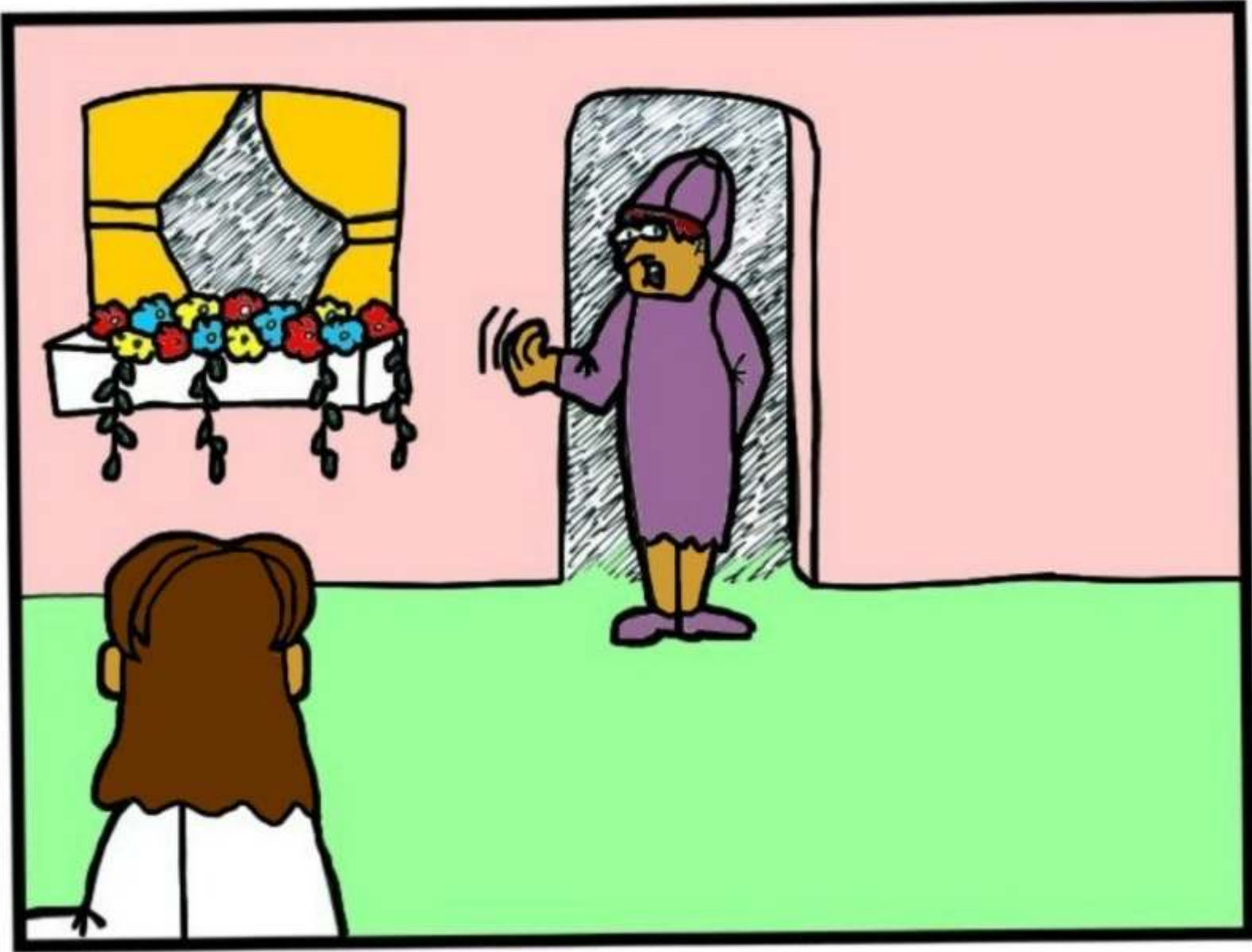


The Two Debtors

(Based on Luke 7:36-50)

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One day a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus for dinner. "Sure," answered Jesus and he entered Simon's house and sat down.



As they ate they heard an unexpected sound. "Boo-hoo-hoo," sobbed a lady. A woman had snuck into Simon's house when he wasn't looking! She was bent over, crying on Jesus' feet and wiping them dry with her hair.



Then she started kissing Jesus' feet and she rubbed special perfume ointment on them.



"Humpf! If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of a woman is touching him!" thought Simon. "She is a sinner woman!"



"Simon, I have something to say to you," said Jesus. "A man who lent people money had two people who owed him money. One owed him five hundred dollars and the other owed five dollars."



‘We don't have any money to pay you back,’ said the people who owed the money. ‘You don't have to pay me back,’ answered the money-lender. Which person will love the money-lender the most?” asked Jesus.



"The one, I guess, that the lender let off paying the most money," answered Simon. "You have the right answer," said Jesus.



"You see this woman Simon? I came into your house and you didn't give me any water to wash my dirty feet. But she has washed my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair!



You didn't greet me with a kiss. You didn't put ointment on my head. Even though she has many sins, they are forgiven because she loves a lot. But the one who has very few sins forgiven doesn't love very much.”



"Woman", said Jesus. "Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace. Your faith has saved you". "Who is this person who even forgives sin?" thought all the people at the table.



Lord, help me to understand how much you have forgiven me, so that I will be one who loves you much.