

(9) Mary & Martha's Hospitality (Luke 10:38-42)

1. A certain woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her home (Lk. 10:38).
 - a. Μάρθα Martha ^{#3136}_{13x} fr. מַרְתָּא ^{#3136}_{13x} marta' "mistress."
 - b. ὑποδέχομαι hypodechomai ^{#5264}_{4x}: to receive hospitably, *receive, welcome, entertain as a guest* (Lk. 10:38; 19:6; Acts 17:7; Jas. 2:25).
2. Martha had a sister called Mary (Lk. 10:39).
 - a. Μαρία Maria or Μαριάμ Mariam ^{#3137}_{27x} fr. מִרְיָם ^{#4813}_{15x} miryam ^{#4813}_{15x}. 1 of 6 NT Mary's. Sister of Martha and Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-12:8).
 - b. παρακαθίζομαι parakathezomai ^{#3865}_{Hap.}: *sit beside*. Mary was sitting beside Jesus' feet and listening to His word. This was the place to be as far as the Rabbis were concerned [Abot 1:4](#), but not available to women as a rule. See TDNT's article on [γυνή](#).
3. Martha was distracted (Lk. 10:40).
 - a. Imperf.pass.ind. περισπάω perispāō ^{#4049}_{Hap.}: to be pulled away from a reference point, *be pulled/dragged away*; to have one's attention directed from one thing to another, *become distracted, quite busy, overburdened*.
 - 1) Josephus has interesting military uses for περισπάω ([Wars 1.232](#)).
 - 2) Shepherd of Hermas has an interesting use as well ([Herm.Sim.IV.5](#) cf. 2nd Tim. 2:4).
 - b. Martha's distraction led her to conclude that the Lord did not care (οὐ μέλει σοι ou melei soi).
 - c. Martha is abandoned (καταλείπω kataleipō ^{#2641}_{24x}) and demands help (συναντιλαμβάνομαι sunantilambanomai ^{#4878}_{2x} used only here and Rom. 8:26).
4. The Lord's rebuke to Martha (Lk. 10:41-42).
 - a. You are worried (μεριμνάω merimnaō ^{#3309}_{19x}) and bothered (θορυβάζω thorubazō ^{#5182}_{Hap.}).
 - b. So many worrisome, bothersome, and distracting things are a sharp contrast with one necessary thing.
 - c. Martha's distraction was a mental pulling/dragging by so many things she lost sight of the one necessary thing; orientation to the person of Jesus Christ (1st Cor. 2:2).
 - d. Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away.
 - 1) Mary's focus on the one necessary thing (occupation with the person of Jesus Christ) produced no distraction, worry or bother.
 - 2) She becomes the illustration of Isa. 26:3.