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 fr. Μαρθή mari “mistress.”
   b. υποδέχομαι hypodechomai #2641 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 Μαρία Mariam #3137 fr. מִרְיָם miryam #4813 1 of 6 NT Mary’s. Sister of Martha and Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-12:8).
   b. παρακαθέζομαι 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 perispaō #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 μελεῖ σοι ou melei soi).
   c. Martha is abandoned (καταλείπω kataleipō #2641) and demands help (συναντιλαμβάνομαι sunantilambanomai #4878 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) and bothered (θορυβάζω thorubazō #5182).
   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.