



## **Three Life Lessons from Two Significant Sisters**

Luke 10:38-42

### **We can follow these sisters in welcoming Jesus!**

**Verse 38:**

#### **Text Message:**

- The text states that Martha “welcomed” Jesus into her home.
- This sounds ordinary, but the word “welcome” (υποδεχομαι, *hupodechomai*) appears just four times in the New Testament:
  - 1) Here- This is unusual, as this was the role

of the oldest male in the family to welcome guests.

2) Luke 19:6- Jesus is welcomed by a despised chief tax collector named Zacchaeus.

3) Acts 17:7- a Jewish convert named Jason welcomes the apostles.

4) James 2:25- the prostitute Rahab welcomed messengers into Jericho during the conquest by Joshua.

- When we put these together, we get a mosaic of Jesus being welcomed by those who were otherwise marginalized: women, tax collectors, Gentiles, and prostitutes!
- We also see Martha welcoming Jesus when He was becoming more marginalized in the world.
- May we welcome Jesus into our hearts/homes/church **and** in the marginalized we encounter!

**We can follow these sisters in sitting at Jesus' feet!**

**Verse 39:**

**Text Message:**

- If Martha's welcome was unusual, Mary's posture was unheard of! This just didn't happen in the ancient East!
- Remember, Jesus isn't teaching the crowd here, where men, women, and children would've been mixed. He's in a private place assuming the posture of a rabbi teaching his disciples!
- By sitting at Jesus' feet, Mary was not only in the wrong space (reserved for men) but in the posture of one who would learn to teach others! This is scandalous!
- This would not have been first heard as a story of serving vs. devotion, but a story with a shocking ending!
  - 1) Just prior to this, we have a story of a Samaritan being commended for showing hospitality. Therefore, we see Jesus undoing the boundary lines of ethnicity.
  - 2) Here Martha is showing hospitality, what is good and right.
  - 3) Mary is in the wrong space! *Who does she think she is?*
  - 4) Martha appeals to Jesus, who of course, will take her side!

- But that is not how the story ends! It's as if this story is a prequel to Pentecost in Acts 2 where God's Spirit is poured out upon male **and** female, and that sons **and** daughters will prophesy (Acts 2:17; compare Galatians 3:28).
- May we likewise sit at Jesus' feet!

## **We can follow these sisters in their faithfulness to Jesus.**

### **Text Message:**

- In the last few weeks, we've looked at "the rest of the story" of various women, as recorded in *The Synaxarion* [The Lives of the Saints] of the Eastern Tradition (Orthodox Church).
- This ancient history indicates that Martha and Mary accompanied their brother, Lazarus, who was cast out of Jerusalem after the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7) and accompanied him in preaching the Gospel.