



Invitations to the Kingdom of God Luke 10:38-42

The kingdom of God invites all to welcome Jesus!

Verse 38:

Text Message:

- o Notice Martha “welcomed” Jesus into her home.
- o While this may sound ordinary, the word used

for “welcome” (υποδεχομαι, *hupodechomai*)

appears in no other Gospel and only four times in the New Testament. Here they are:

1) Here, where a “woman named Martha” welcomes Jesus into her home. This is unusual, as this was the role of the oldest male in the family to

welcome guests.

2) In Luke 19:6, where Jesus was welcomed by a despised chief tax collector named Zacchaeus.

3) In Acts 17:7, where a Jewish convert named Jason welcomes the apostles.

4) In James 2:25, where the word is used of the prostitute Rahab, who welcomed messengers into Jericho.

- o Three of the four references are authored by Luke (Luke-Acts) and one by James. When we put these all together, we get a mosaic of Jesus being welcomed by women (marginalized), traitors, Jews, and outcasts!
- o May we welcome Jesus into our church/hearts/homes/days!

The kingdom of God invites all to sit at Jesus' feet!

Verse 39:

Text Message:

- o If Martha's welcome was unusual, Mary's posture was unheard of! This just didn't happen in the ancient East!
- o Remember, Jesus isn't teaching the crowd here, where men, women, and children would've been

mixed. He's assuming the posture of a rabbi teaching his disciples!

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

The kingdom of God invites all to cast their cares on Jesus.

Verse 41:

Text Message:

- o The word “anxious” means to be divided or double-minded.
- o The word “troubled” is found only here in the entire NT and is the word that our English “turbulence/turbulent” comes from!
- o *Experienced any turbulence lately?*
“... casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7
- o The Greek word for “casting” is only used twice in the NT, here and Luke 19:35 of placing cloaks on the colt during Palm Sunday.