

Are We Honoring Jesus as Lord – Part 5: Luke 11:27-28 ESV

Jesus Said Something Unexpected; Let Us Honor Him!

Services: Wednesday, February 24 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Church Year: Third Wednesday of Lent – 2016

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: What is the focus of **your** Christian devotion?

- Respecting Mary, the mother of Jesus!
- Faithfully reading Portals of Prayer!
- Praying before every meal!

Those things are not wrong to do, *but something else is more important*; this is today's text: ²⁷ **As [Jesus] said [amazing] things [see vv. 14-26], a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!”** ²⁸ **But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”** // So the woman in the crowd put her focus on Mary – *the one who gave birth to Jesus and nursed Him*. But Jesus turned the focus in an unexpected direction:

- ➔ He could have said, “Yes, My mother was very important, *but now the focus should be on Me.*”
- ➔ But, instead, *He basically said, “Don’t focus on her, and don’t focus just on Me; instead, focus on being in a right relationship with Me. What does such a relationship with Me look like, you ask? It includes ♣hearing the Word of God and ♣keeping it.”*

Blessed are those who hear
the Word of God
and Obey It.

1. **Jesus' Words in Verse 28:**

- a. Literal translation: **“Blessed** [μακάριοι] **the ones** [οἱ] **hearing** [ἀκούοντες] **the** [τὸν] **Word** [λόγον] **ⲉⲑⲟⲩ of God** [θεοῦ] **and** [καὶ] **keeping** [φυλάσσοντες].”
- b. The key words (Gingrich, Bible Works):
 - i. **μακάριοι** (ma-kar-i-oi) – **“blessed, fortunate, happy usually in the sense of privileged recipient of divine favor.”** Jesus loves us, so He wants us to be blessed / fortunate / happy. Then He identified two ingredients: *hearing* and *keeping*.
 - ii. **ἀκούοντες** (a-kou-on-tes) – **“heed, listen to, understand.”** The hearing is more than just a sound entering the ear; the sound must be words which are *rightly understood*.
 - iii. **φυλάσσοντες** (phu-las-son-tes) – **“keep, observe, follow a law.”** For people who **know Jesus**, *they have new hearts*; so, upon understanding what they hear, *they desire to do it*.

2. **Hearing the Word of God:** Some key passages:

- a. Bad hearing:
 - i. Jesus said to the Pharisees and scribes: **“You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition... thus making void the word of God by your tradition [by your man-made rules]”** (Mark 7:9, 13 ESV). ☹

ii. Paul and Barnabas said to the Jews in Antioch: “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside... behold, we are turning to the Gentiles” (Acts 13:46 ESV). ☹️

b. **Good** hearing:

- i. The Bible says: “On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God” (Luke 5:1 ESV), He got into a boat and taught from there (Third Commandment Explanation; Acts 17:11). 😊
- ii. This passage identifies the work of God’s Word: “...the word of God is... able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Heb. 4:12 NAS) – for our good😊!

3. **Keeping the Word of God**: That means to observe it / follow it / obey it. These things result from knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord:

- a. Jesus used these words to identify the members of His family: “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it” (Luke 8:21 ESV).
- b. Once we receive God’s love, *in the Person of Jesus*, then we love Him in return; Jesus said: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15 ESV).
- c. When Christian leaders keep the Word of God in life *and even unto death*, those are good examples for us:

- i. Paul used these words to encourage those who knew him: “The things you have **learned and received and heard and seen** in me, practice [those] things; and the God of peace shall be with you” (Phil. 4:9 NAS).
 - ii. The book of Hebrews has this advice: “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith” (Hebrews 13:7 ESV).
Some of those leaders were put to death for Jesus’ sake, *but they were also faithful to the very end!* May we be the same!
- d. Being welcomed into heaven **has everything to do with knowing Jesus**—*whose work is done*, and **nothing** to do with how we live. But some may ask, “How do I know that I know Jesus?”
- i. We understand the phrase, “I AM baptized,” so I AM *still clothed with Christ*, who is my righteousness (Galatians 3:27).
 - ii. The Holy Spirit makes that known to us through the Word of God (Romans 8:16).
 - iii. John also wrote: “...by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments” (1 John 2:3 NAS).

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You we **know** You, **hear** You, and **know** it is important to keep Your Word, so encourage us and strengthen us to honor You! Amen!

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