

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

GOD'S BLESSINGS COME TO THOSE WHO HEAR HIS WORD AND KEEP IT

Luke 11:27-28 "As He said these things, 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!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Remember Mary's words in Luke 1:48? After the Angel told her she would be the mother of Jesus, she said, "For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed." Luke 11:17 records the fulfillment of Mary's words, ". . . 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!'"

Jesus did not refute the woman's words. He did, however elevate her words to point not to Mary but to God's Word when He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it." Hearing and keeping God's word is how you become and remain connected to Jesus. Earlier in Luke, Jesus made that very connection, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." (Luke 8:21)

Lenski, in his commentary on Luke says that the English translation of Jesus' words found in most English Bible's fall short of the full depth of meaning of the Greek word found in the original. He says a far better English phrase is "to guard" the Word of God by keeping it safely in our own hearts as the most precious treasure and by allowing no word to contradict it."

Jesus here emphasizes the importance of God's word for you and your eternal life. He not only brought God's word, taught and proclaimed it during His public ministry, but is the very sum and substance of it. Hearing, keeping and guarding God's Word is fundamental to your faith in Jesus. It is through this word that you were brought to faith in Jesus. It is through this word your faith and trust in Him is maintained. Through His word demons are cast out of your heart. By the power of His Word Jesus takes up residence in your heart. It is His word by which His blessings become your very own.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, help me to hear, keep and guard the Word of God through which He graciously blesses me daily. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(A hymn prayed to Jesus at the beginning of the worship service to bless our hearing of His word)

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.
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