

# Luke 11:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

## Analysis

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Jesus responds: 'Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.' This corrects a woman's statement that Jesus' mother was blessed for bearing Him (v. 27). Jesus doesn't deny Mary's blessedness but redirects focus—true blessing comes from hearing and obeying God's word, not merely physical relationship to Jesus. The Greek 'phyllassontes' (φυλάσσουντες, keep/obey) means guarding, observing, doing. Mary herself is blessed not primarily for bearing Jesus but for believing and obeying God's word (Luke 1:45). Hearing without obeying brings no blessing; obedience to God's word defines true blessedness.

## Historical Context

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Jewish culture highly honored mothers, especially mothers of great men. The woman's exclamation 'Blessed is the womb that bare thee' (v. 27) expressed this cultural value. Jesus' response doesn't dishonor Mary but elevates obedience above biological connection. This principle appears throughout His ministry—spiritual family (those who do God's will) matters more than physical family (Mark 3:31-35). Jesus honored Mary (providing for her at the cross, John 19:26-27) but established that discipleship, not relationship, determines blessing. Early church father Chrysostom noted that Mary is blessed because she believed and obeyed, not merely because she was Jesus' mother.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' response elevate obedience to God's word above physical relationship or religious heritage?
2. What does this teaching correct about seeking blessing through connection to godly people rather than personal obedience?

## Interlinear Text

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αὐτὸν	δὲ	εἶπεν	μενοῦνγε	μακάριοι	οἱ	ἀκούοντες	τὸν
it	But	he said	Yea rather	blessed	G3588	are they that hear	G3588
G846	G1161	G2036	G3304	G3107		G191	
λόγον	τοῦ	θεοῦ	καὶ	φυλάσσοντες	αὐτὸν		
the word	G3588	of God	and	keep	it		
G3056		G2316	G2532	G5442	G846		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 8:21** (Word): And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

**Psalms 112:1** (Word): Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

**John 13:17** (Parallel theme): If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

**Psalms 128:1** (Blessing): Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.

**Revelation 22:14** (Word): Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

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