

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #181

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

## The Later Judean Ministry: Jesus Warns His Disciples Not to Emulate the Pharisees

### Jesus Declares The Blessing of Obedience

Luke 11.27-28

27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth, and blessed is she who nursed you."

28 He replied, *"Rather, blessed are those who continually listen to the word of God and keep on obeying it."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Judea
Timeline	October or November (Months 33, 34)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	2. Jesus Warns His Disciples Not to Emulate the Pharisees
Title	li. Jesus Declares The Blessing of Obedience

#### COMMENT:

In the long sequence of six warnings from Jesus not to emulate the hypocrisy of the Pharisees (LK 11.14 to 12.21), this single, short positive declaration stands out like a supple orchid blooming alone in the middle of the Sahara desert. It addresses what the Pharisees preached, but utterly failed to practice: loving obedience to God's word.

Jesus had expressed the importance of obedience many times. (MT 7.24-27 is a great example.) Here He linked it with one of his signature *"blessed are..."* statements. This makes it particularly important.

When someone in the crowd tried to praise Jesus by referring to Mary, the surrogate mother of Jesus, he quickly turned the blessing away from her, to obedience—the only sure foundation for deep joy and happiness in life. Why do that? The answer is three-fold.

First, loving obedience to his Father was the crowning glory of his own life, according to Jesus. Every good and perfect gift that comes to each of us through Jesus was paid for by Jesus' own obedience. In contrast, every evil and destructive thing that curses and blights our own life is a product of disobedience, or sin

Second, the source of Mary's personal blessing of being Jesus' human mother was the greater blessing Jesus spoke of: she listened to and obeyed God's Word to her. She said: *"Yes, I am the bond-slave of the Lord; My wish is for it to happen to me just as you have said."* (LK 1.38) Without obedience, Mary never would have become Jesus' mother in the first place. Like Jesus, obedience was the key to Mary's blessing.

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Third, the blessing of being Jesus' mother was open to only one person in history. It was therefore a unique thing that could not be experienced by any other disciple. Conversely, the blessing of hearing and obeying God's Word is open equally to every believer. There is no limit upon how much obedience any of us can experience.

The blessings of obedience are eternal, irreversible, and blossom into the deepest, most satisfying delights known to the human race. There is absolutely nothing--literally--that can bless us more than obedience in our relationship with our Lord. This is why he spoke these blessed words.

### APPLICATION:

Obedience is predicated on two things.

First, we must hear what God says. We must receive it as a life-controlling revelation from God, straight to us.

Secondly, we must trust God for power to produce a full-hearted, passionate obedience that is all about love.

Obedience relies on the enabling love of the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. Therefore, the possibility of obedience is equally open to us all.

Believing that God's will, and commands to us are pure expressions of His love for us energizes our obedience like nothing else. Obedience is then our expression of love back to Him. True obedience is all about love.

Isn't it wonderful that this "blessed are" statement from Jesus unleashes unlimited potential for every one of us?

*What specific commands of God's Word can you hear and obey today?*

*What will you do to hear more of God's Word in your immediate future?*

*What aspect of neglected obedience do you need to renew?*