



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND OBSERVE IT

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.” He replied, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

LUKE 11:27-28

Reflection

In Scripture, blessing is understood as a communication of life from God. With this life come strength and accomplishment, bringing peace within oneself as

well as peace with the world. This blessing requires personal response both by active attention to the word of God, and by living out this holy word in one's life.

Most of the ancient Semitic world, and many people of other world cultures, shared a belief in the reality of the spoken word as a dynamic entity. So reference to the word of God was understood as an active being. With this understanding, a response to God's word ("observe it" or "act on it") makes sense.

From an earlier part of the Gospel of Luke, hearing the word of God and obeying it creates the family of Jesus rather than physical relationship. This does not diminish Mary or any other relative or the importance of family. Instead, it holds precious the deep, relational value of the word of God AND responding to it.

"Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you." Jesus said in reply, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

LUKE 8:20-21



Magnolias in San Diego, CA

For Pondering

- What is the word God is speaking to you now? What action/ response are you invited to?
 - Hear Jesus calling you “blessed” for hearing and acting on God’s word. What do you say to him?
-

For Prayer

*Dear GOD,
may I hear and listen to Your voice each day of my life.
Inspire me to act on Your words that I may know Your blessing
and be a blessing for the universe.
Thank You.
Amen.*

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