

## Luke 11:27-28

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and blessed are the breasts that nursed You."

<sup>28</sup> But He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Berean Study Bible

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1

### **How to be blessed. Luke 11:27-28**

In order to be blessed I need to hear God's Word. 11:28a

Take heed that you hear. Mark 9:7, Proverbs 2:2-5, Isaiah 55:3

Take heed what you hear. Mark 4:24, Proverbs 19:27

Take heed how you hear. Luke 8:18, Acts 17:11

In order to be blessed I need to obey God's Word. 11: 28b

Take heed that you obey. Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Take heed what you obey. Proverbs 19:27

Take heed how you obey. Deuteronomy 4:6, 9

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2

### **How to answer poor theology. Luke 11:27-28**

The woman who spoke to Jesus was not wrong; but she was shallow.

I can use this model to help others grow; and to help myself grow, too!

Everyone needs grace. 11:27

Everyone sees from their personal, viewpoint. 27 "woman... womb... breasts"

Everyone starts from their... Jesus does not rebuke, nor contradict. 28 "Rather..."

Everyone receives grace. 11:28

Jesus moves to a personal level. 29 "Blessed are those who..."

Jesus speaks the same language. 29 "Blessed μακάριος, rather than εὐλογέω

Jesus focuses on Scripture 29 "hear the word of God"

Jesus moves on to application. 29 "and obey it"

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3

### **You are blessed. I am blessed. We are all blessed. Luke 11:27-28**

Everyone needs blessings. 27-28

Everyone needs this blessing (μακάριος); stretching.  
Everyone needs that blessings (εὐλογέω); wisdom.

Everyone gets blessed. 27

Mary had a unique blessing. 27

I have my unique blessings.

Everyone chooses their blessing. 28

There are those who hear. 28 “hear the word of God”

There are those who heed. 28b “and obey it”

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4

### **Count your many blessings. Luke 11:27-28**

Count the blessings already received. 27

Everyone has some blessings.

Everyone has different blessings.

Count on the blessings to be received. 28

Everyone may be more blessed. 28 “hear”

Everyone must choose to be blessed. 28 “obey”

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5

### **How blessed do you want to be? Luke 11:27-28**

I am the person God wants to bless. 27

I am blessed potentially. John 13:17 “blessed if you do them”

I am blessed truly. Galatians 3:9 “Those of faith are blessed”

I am blessed abundantly. Ephesians 1:3 “every spiritual blessing”

I am in the process of being blessed. 28

I am blessed by salvation. Galatians 3:9 “Those of faith are blessed with Abraham”

I am blessed by sanctification. Matthew 13:16 “your eyes are seeing; ears hearing”

I am blessed by service. John 13:17 “you are blessed if you do them.”

I am blessed at the Second Coming. Matthew 25:34 “blessed... enter into the joy...”

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6

### **Here, try this blessing on for size. Luke 11:27-28**

Some blessings are unique / for you alone. 27

Anything can be my blessing. James 1:2, 12

Blessings do not remove my problems. Luke 23:29, John 7:5

Some blessings are ubiquitous / for one and all. 28  
Everyone can have the blessing of salvation. Romans 4:7-8  
Everyone can have the blessing of serving. Acts 20:35  
Everyone can have the blessing of sanctification. John 13:17

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7

### **Don't stop there. There is so much more! Luke 11:27-28**

Others get blessed. 27 "Blessed is the womb..."

God is generous with His blessings.

I have not missed out on blessings.

I'm almost blessed. 28a "hear the word of God"

God's blessings are available to me.

God's blessings depend on me.

I can be blessed. 28b "and obey it"

I need to be in what God is blessing.

I need to be doing what God is blessing.

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8

### **What winners know. Luke 11:28**

Winners know they are already blessed. "blessed are" Ephesians 1:3

Winners know how to listen. "those who hear" Matthew 13:15. Galatians 3:2, 5

Winners know what to know. "the Word of God" James 1:21

Winners know what to do. "and obey it" James 2:18-26

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### **Other possible titles**

The happy heckler.

Blessed more than Mary.

So far, so good.

What the Bible actually says about Mary, and me!

Mary and me – two peas in a pod.

What made Mary blessed?

Give up your small ambitions. God has something better for you.

How are your kids turning out?

Where did I put my blessing? I seem to be missing something.

She got it. But I have missed out on the blessing. Why should I bother?

Are you stuck at second place?

Honour your mother.  
If it looks like it's too late for you, hear this.  
How to recognise a blessing.  
Blessings without the disguise (unmask / reveal motif)

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## Music and songs

Songs about giving blessing to God

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty. 407  
Blessed be the Rock of my salvation.  
Blessed be Your name. Ot 42  
Come bless the Lord. 82  
Stand and bless the Lord. Ot 91  
Stand up and bless the Lord. Ot 71

Songs about receiving blessings

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. H 687 / Ch 205  
Blessings and more blessings overtake me.  
Blest be the tie that binds. H 499  
Greatly blessed, highly favoured. Ot 96  
Is your life a channel of blessing... Make me a channel of blessing. H 647  
May God's blessing. MP 460  
There shall be showers of blessing. H 697  
When upon life's billows... Count your blessings. H 723 / Ch 434

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## Thought starters for personal reflection, or group study.

1. The New Testament has 2 words that are translated into English as 'blessing'. What is an example of each type of blessing?
  2. What is something, that was so well-disguised, that you didn't see it as a blessing when it first arrived?
  3. Read Luke 11:27-28. In both verses, 'bless' is *makarios*. How do you think she viewed blessings? How did Jesus want to deepen her understanding of blessings?
  4. The woman in Luke 11:27 said Mary was blessed. What do these verses say about Mary and blessings: Luke 1:28,42,48? Do blessings remove problems, Luke 2:34-35, John 7:5?
  5. Read James 1:2,12. Can bad events be a blessing? Can COVID-19 be a blessing? How do you measure a blessing?
  6. Compare Luke 11:28 with John 13:17. Is it possible to miss out on God's blessings? Advise a friend of 2 ways to ensure being blessed.
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## Lexicography of Blessed

There are two key words in the New Testament which are translated as 'bless' or a cognate of 'bless' such as 'blessed' or 'blessing'. Those two words are: μακάριος and εὐλογέω.

μακάριος [Strong's 3107]. This is based on μακ– which means to 'to make longer' or 'to enlarge'. Hence, the one who receives God's favour, abundance, or provisions; and this enables the recipient to become happy.

Pastorally and practically, being blessed with μακάριος, 'being enlarged', would also mean being stretched beyond my original comfort zone, and being equipped to take on extra duties and responsibilities.

This word is used repeatedly by Jesus in the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-11, Luke 6:20-22.

Jesus used this word to describe faithful servants. Luke 12:37, 38, 43; Luke 14:14, 15, John 13:17; John 20:29

This word describes the state of the one whose sin is forgiven, Romans 4:7, 8.

The 50 occurrences of μακάριος and its cognates are found in this frequency: Matthew, 13. Luke, 15. John, 2. Acts, 2. Romans, 3. 1 Corinthians, 1. 1 Timothy, 2. Titus, 1. James, 1. 1 Peter, 2. Revelation, 7.

εὐλογέω [Strong's 2127]. This is a combined word of two parts. From εὖ [Strong's 2095] meaning 'well, good' and λόγος [Strong's 3056] meaning 'word, reason'. Hence, to speak words which confers benefit, cause to prosper, make happy.

Pastorally and practically, being blessed with εὐλογέω, 'good words', would mean being equipped with comfort, and with wisdom as preparation for coming responsibilities.

This word is used of Jesus saying a 'table grace' at the feeding of the 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, Matthew 14:19, Mark 6:41, Luke 9:16.

This same word is used when Jesus 'blessed' the bread He broke at the Last Supper, Matthew 26:26, Mark 14:22

This is the word used when Jesus took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them, and blessed them. Mark 10:16

God is the one whom we bless, and who blesses us. Ephesians 1:3

Jesus used this word for 'bless' as a contrast to 'curse'. Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:28, Romans 12:14, 1 Corinthians 4:12.

Jesus also used this word to describe those who are escorted into Heaven. Matthew 25:34

The 43 occurrences of εὐλογέω and its cognates are found in this frequency: Matthew, 6. Mark, 6. Luke, 13. John, 1. Acts, 1. Romans, 2. 1 Corinthians, 3. Galatians, 1. Ephesians, 1. Hebrews, 7. James, 1. 1 Peter, 1.

The word used by the woman in this text, Luke 11:27, is μακάριος. The word used by Jesus in response, in Luke 11:28, is also μακάριος.

## Mary is blessed

This text

“**Blessed** [μακάριος] is the womb that bore You, and the breasts that nursed You.”  
Luke 11:27b

Angel, Gabriel, to Mary

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured with grace [χαριτώ]! The Lord is with you. **Blessed** [εὐλογέω] are you among women." Luke 1:28

Elizabeth to Mary

<sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed, “**Blessed** [εὐλογέω] are you among women, and **blessed** [εὐλογέω] is the fruit of your womb! Luke 1:42

Mary's song, the Magnificat

<sup>48</sup> For He has looked with favour on the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me **blessed** [μακάριος]. Luke 1:48

But, also note

<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon **blessed** [εὐλογέω] them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.' Luke 2:34-35

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