August 15, 2019

Scripture

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."

Our Scripture Reflection

In Luke’s Gospel beginning at 9:51 and extending to 19: 28, he records a long journey narrative
during which Jesus travels from His home base of Galilee in the north to Jerusalem, the city of
destiny, in the south. And all the while He travels He is very busy teaching. In today’s reading an
unnamed woman in the crowd shouts out what appears to be initially a very kind and
appropriate beatitude that essentially praises His Mother. Jesus, however, corrects the woman.
Yes, He loves His Mother who gave Him birth, but what makes His Mother great, and His
disciples as well, is their ability to act on the word of God.

Food for your Journey

Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be broken. This beatitude cannot be found in Matthew
5’s listing, but it certainly has clear biblical principle behind it.
Dr. David Schroeder, in his study on discipleship, asserts that discipleship is not so much about
the development of disciplines as it is about the development of character traits. One he
identifies, that Jesus sought to build in the life of his disciples, was flexibility.
Jesus certainly was flexible. He was frequently altering his schedule to accommodate the needs
of others. On his way to heal a child, a woman interrupted him for a special request, and he met
her need. In the middle of a sermon in Capernaum, Jesus was interrupted by a demonized man
and stopped his teaching to deliver him (Luke 4). Jesus modeled flexibility.
A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I love You and I believe You. Your Son came into this world to preach and teach Your way to us. Help me to read His holy word but also to heed it by putting the word into practice each day. Amen