

**Matthew 7:28-29:** And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,<sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

**Intro:** We have been meditating on the Sermon on the Mount each Sunday morning for about one year. Lord willing, we finish Matthew 7 today with the crowds' reaction to the sermon and their reaction to Jesus Christ.

In our study of this sermon, we have seen that it is certainly true: **John 7:46:** "No one ever spoke like **this man!**"

**These last two verses of chapter 7 point us to this Man, Christ Jesus: Lloyd-Jones:** So, having looked at the whole Sermon, we find that all the instructions He gave become focused together **in Him**. We look **at Him** in a special way in the Sermon on the Mount; & any study of it should always lead us to that. Here in these two verses we have a very wonderful way of doing so. We are told about the reaction of these people who had the great & high privilege of **looking at Him** & listening to the Sermon. And we are told that their reaction was one of astonishment . . . There is no value in all other teaching if we are not right **about Him**. Essentially the vital point of all teaching, of theology, & of the whole Bible is to bring us to a knowledge **of Him** & into a relationship **with Him**

### **1. The Crowds Were Astonished At His Teaching**

**JMac:** They were astonished. We could use a lot of words for that. It means they were awed, they were amazed, they were dumbfounded, they were bewildered. But I looked it up in the Greek text, and it literally means they were struck out of themselves or they were struck out of their senses. In the vernacular, it blew their minds. It blew them away that anybody could stand up there and say all of those things with such power, exousia, authority, such power, such dynamic and not do it like the scribes. And how did the scribes do it? They just quoted other people. They were fallible and they stacked up a lot of other fallible people as their source. Jesus just flat out said it, and it blew them away. They had never heard such wisdom, they had never seen such depth, they had never understood such scope. Every dimension of human life was touched in an economy of words that was breathtaking. They had never heard such deep insight into the law of God or the sin of man. They had never heard such fearful warnings about hell, hellfire, and judgment. They had never heard anybody who so confronted the religious leaders of the time. They were utterly shocked that He didn't use anybody else as an authority but seemed to stand upon His own authority. And that's where it ends. They were shocked.

### **2. The Crowds Were Astonished At His Teaching Because He Taught Them With Authority**

**Matthew 7:28-29:** And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,<sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

They weren't astonished because of His grand oratory skills or because of His great intellect or because He was entertaining and funny or because He made them feel good or because of His appearance or accent or voice.

#### **a. They were astonished because He taught them with authority in the Sermon on the Mount:**

1) He pronounces blessings: The Beatitudes; **Matthew 5:8:** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

2) He pronounces that we will suffer for His sake: **Matthew 5:11:** Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (not Jehovah's sake; but He is Jehovah)

3) He pronounces that He is the fulfillment and climax of the Law and the Prophets: **Matthew 5:17:** Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

4) He has come! **John 8:14, 23:** you do not know where I come from . . .<sup>23</sup> You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

5) He pronounces who will and who will not enter the kingdom of heaven: **Matthew 5:20:** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

6) He references/speaks of God law, and then says these amazing words: “But I say unto you” (Six times!)

**Lloyd-Jones:** we must also consider this other extraordinary statement: “I say unto you.” This is, of course, one of the most crucial statements with regard to the doctrine of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. You see, He does not hesitate here to set Himself up as the authority. [Jesus is not correcting the law of Moses] . . . He is saying, rather, “I am interpreting to you the law of Moses, and it is My interpretation that is true and not that of the Pharisees and Scribes.” Indeed there is even more than that in it. There is a suggestion that He is saying something like this: “I who am speaking to you am the very One who was responsible for the law of Moses; it was I who gave it to Moses, and it is I alone, therefore, who can truly interpret it.” You see, He does not hesitate here to claim for Himself a unique authority; He claims to speak as God. Regarding the law of Moses, as He does, as something which shall not pass away until every jot and tittle has been fulfilled, He does not hesitate, nevertheless, to say, “But I say unto you.” He claims the authority of God; and that, of course, is the claim which is made for Him everywhere in the four Gospels and in the entire New Testament.

7) He corrects the false teachings of the Scribes and Pharisees; He is the final and righteous interpreter of the OT: **Matthew 5:31-32:** It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

8) He speaks as the source of truth itself: He didn't need to reference this commentary or that commentary or this Rabbi or that Rabbi – He is the way, the truth, and the life! He is the source of all Biblical truth – all of God's truth!

**Klaas Schilder:** explains how in one sense Jesus quoted Psalm 22 when He cried out on the cross, but in other sense He did not quote it because He inspired the writing of Psalm 22! The eternal Son of God, the Logos (the Word), breathed out Psalm 22! (This is also a great argument against those who say "Jesus never said anything about x, y, or z, in the Bible. Yes He did! The Logos inspired the whole Bible!) "He speaks in quotations because in a strict sense He never uses quotations. The Scriptures are the product of inspiration; the author of Scriptures is the Logos through His Spirit. Thus the Logos is the poet, the creator of the thoughts and of the poems in the Bible. Accordingly, when as man, that Logos feels back, goes back, in experience to that which as the Logos he announced beforehand through the Spirit, we can say that the specifically human in this experience can undoubtedly be characterized by saying: Notice, He is quoting. But on the other hand, Christ, who as a Person remains the Son of God, also in His human nature, is not quoting. As a human being He does indeed refer to a statement of the Bible, but as God, as the Supreme Wisdom He once Himself announced the very statement He quotes. Accordingly, He is not 'quoting' another person whom He recalls, but He is repeating His own words which He had spoken beforehand concerning Himself, and which, as man, He now fulfills and realizes in Himself."

9) He pronounces that He is called Lord: **Matthew 7:22:** On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord . . . .”

10) He pronounces that He will be the judge of all on the last day: **Matthew 7:22-23:** On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, & cast out demons in your name, & do many mighty works in your name?” And then will I declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.”

11) He pronounces that eternal life and eternal death are determined by what we do with Him and His Words: **Matthew 7:24:** Everyone then who hears **these words of mine and does them** will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

**b. (Carl Robbins) More reasons Jesus' teaching was with authority and not like the scribes' teaching:**

- 1) Jesus is the new & better Moses: Sermon on the Mount; Deut. 18: Prophet like Moses; He obeyed law perfectly!
- 2) Jesus' teaching was always done in love and with grace
- 3) Jesus teaching was accompanied by miracles: Feeding of 5,000-Bread of Life; healed blind-Light of the world)
- 4) Jesus' teaching was with passion: Jesus' teaching was never boring – “Zeal for your house will consume me”

**c. (Carl Robbins) Some other ways Jesus' authority is demonstrated:**

1) Jesus is God: Colossians 1:19: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

**Colossians 2:9:** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

2) Jesus is the Creator: Colossians 1:16: For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him.

3) Jesus controls the whole world and everything that happens (providence): Hebrews 1:3: He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

4) Jesus casts out demons/heals diseases/raises the dead/calms the storm

5) Jesus forgives sins: Mark 2:5-7: And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

**d. (Al Martin) Some ways Jesus' authority was different from the scribes: Verse 29:** for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

1) The scribes merely parroted others: they referenced other teachers/rabbi's but had no authority in themselves

2) The scribes majored in the minors: they focused on small matters and neglected the major, weighty matters.

**Matthew 23:23:** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness.

3) The scribes lived immoral lives: they did not live godly, holy lives. They loved money. They were hypocrites.

**e. Some lessons for us as teachers and spreaders of the Word of God:**

1) Our authority is Christ & His Word; Everyone we cite should know God, be in submission to God's Word, and serve our better understanding of God's Word.

2) May we major on the majors: **1 Corinthians 2:2:** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified; **Mather:** Let the motto upon your whole ministry be - "Christ is All!"

3) May we live out Christ's commands: may we be wise and build our house on the Rock – doers of the Word!

The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching, but did they believe in Jesus and His teaching? Did they follow Him? Did they obey Him? Are you astonished at His teachings? Are you trusting Him and obeying Him and following Him? Are you committed to submit to His authority in every area of your life? **Unbelievers: GOSPEL!**

His Person and work demand totally and unconditional allegiance. He is God. He has died. He is risen! He is King!

Christ Jesus Astonished With Much Fascination  
He Taught With Authority Not Scribe Limitation  
His Sermon On The Mount Is Our Life's Sure Foundation  
No Sermon Compares In All Of Creation  
And He Lived It Out To Be Our Salvation  
Then Suffered God's Wrath Our Propitiation  
But Rose From The Dead To End Our Damnation  
By Faith Alone We Have Justification  
So Now In Him There's No Condemnation  
We're Headed For Heaven And Glorification  
Be Not Only Astonished But Trust With Elation  
In Union With Him Obey Christ's Oration  
And Give God The Glory For This Great Proclamation!