

Authority

Matthew 7:28-29

Everything that Jesus had to say to the people of Galilee and Capernaum is over. I want you to get kind of a picture here. He didn't hold an altar call like we do to end a service. He didn't have a musician play, or someone sing a "Benediction". There were no announcements or "The Irish Blessing" quoted as Jesus lifted His hands, "*May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, and may the rains fall softly on your fields. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*" Jesus didn't move quietly to the 'back of the room' while someone closed in prayer so He could exchange pleasantries with the Galileans as they left. He didn't shake the first hand or hear someone say, "Oh Brother Jesus. I really enjoyed your message this morning." Nope, none of that happened. Today, this is what some would call a "mic drop". According to 'grammarist.com', "**A mic drop is the act of deliberating dropping a microphone at the end of a performance that the performer deems to be extremely impressive or unable to be surpassed. A mic drop acts as a punctuation when an impressive performance is given, or an impressive point is made.**" The 'mic drop' began with rap music in the 1980's, was next adapted by comedians at the end of their routines and now a 'mic drop' can be seen at the end of concerts or speeches since 2007. Former President Obama did a 'mic drop' at the end of his speech to the Congressional Black Caucus in 2011 after he told the members to stop belly aching and whining and help him get re-elected. But I hope you listened to that definition and picked up on these three words, "an impressive performance". The 'mic drop' is used by performers at the end of performances. So, what are the citizens of Galilee seeing here? Isn't this something more? As we saw in the Scriptures, in their minds the scribes (those who taught or read in the local synagogues on the Sabbath) were 'performers', but this Jesus, this is different...way different. He has something they don't/didn't have, authority. That is what we will look at today.

I. AND IT CAME TO PASS

Vs. 28

(a) **Not Lost**: It cannot be lost about the importance of this message to this crowd on this day. But listen closely again to this opening phrase in verse 28, "*And it came to pass...*" That little phrase, believe it or not, is used 484 times in the Bible and 410 are in the Old Testament, 65 times in Genesis. It is used the most in the New Testament in the Book of Luke, 40 times. What is the significance of this phrase as Jesus ends His famous sermon?

1. This was Prophetic: *“And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree... (Luke 2). “And it came to pass as the angels were gone away...” “And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.”*

a. This is the phrase used in the Scriptures after something of significance, something prophetic, had taken place. The scribes knew this was different. The people knew this was different. Jesus’ disciples knew this was different. “The people (scribes, Jews, disciples) were all ‘astonished’ at what Jesus had said.

1 John 1:1-4 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; ² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

2. This was Preaching: The scribes read from the Word. Jesus is the Word and spoke clearly of Himself and His expectations for the future of Israel and the coming Church.

- Matthew 5:27, *“You have HEARD...”*
- Matthew 5:28, *“But I SAY...”*

a. The ‘seeker-churches’ of today are performances. They have lights. They have professional music. They have modern looking ‘encouragers’ to speak and tell stories. They are there to entertain. They give themselves cool Church names like “Elevation” or “Journey” or “CityBeat”. They need acceptance of the masses, approval of others and other Churches say, “We need to be more like them!”

b. Nope. Jesus is basically saying, “I ain’t nothing like them. They give you ‘stories’ while I give you ‘doctrine’. Stories = sand. Doctrine = a Rock. I Am that Rock. I Am the Word of God. They ‘speak’ and nothing changes. I’ll speak and everything will change!”

1 Corinthians 1:17-24

Jesus must have been amazing preacher, because the Scripture tells us that when He preached people were amazed, which would make Him an amazing preacher. But what was the source of their amazement? He taught as one who had authority, not like the scribes and Pharisees. It is to be feared that we have far too many scribes and Pharisees in pulpits today. They do not preach with authority and the people are not amazed – amused, perhaps, but not amazed.

Don Kistler

*2 Timothy 4:2-4 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and **doctrine**.³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves **teachers**, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears **from the truth**, and shall be **turned unto fables**.*

In our own day, there is no shortage of preachers who are willing to oblige such self-centered hearers. By and large, the most popular preaching is broad-minded, anecdotal, entertaining, ego-building, and, above-all, never confrontational or dogmatic. It offends no pride, disturbs no conscious, and is a clear reflection of the humanistic spirit of the age, in which tolerance and unity at any cost are the supreme virtues. (1996)

John MacArthur

II. IT CAME FROM ABOVE

Vs. 29

(a) **He Taught Them as One**: It is obvious that the audience that Jesus had been speaking to was massive in size (“*the people*” means ‘throng’). But the message did what it was supposed to do, and that is speak to the individual heart as one.

1. When the Gospel of Jesus Christ speaks to a heart, the numbers in attendance are irrelevant. The person listening was singled out by the Holy Ghost in that throng just as much as was...

- Nicodemus was in John 3 when he came to Jesus by night (The Son that gives life)
- The woman at the well was in John 4 (The Water of Life)

- Mary Magdalene was when she encountered the Risen Savior on Resurrection Sunday in John 20 (Resurrection and the Life)

a. Last year, we focused on the importance of one; “Who’s Your One?”

- The one sheep in Luke 15
- The one coin in Luke 15
- The one son in Luke 15

b. He taught them as one...just as if they were the only one there

(b) **He Had Authority as One**: Here is the main difference in what they had heard from the scribes and then what they heard from Jesus. The scribes were “given” authority. Jesus possessed *authority* (jurisdiction, mastery, privilege).

1. If that last word didn’t ‘ring a bell’ with everything that is going on today, you had to be napping! Today, both of those topics of authority and privilege are being hijacked by an agenda is so negatively affecting society that one NY Sheriff said just this week, “We are losing control.”

- The authority and privilege of LEO is being challenged
- The authority and privilege of Caucasians in America is being challenged
- Believe it or not, the authority and privilege of Blacks in America is also being challenged
- Jesus, being a traveling ‘preacher’ from Galilee, will be challenged later in Matthew 21:23 when He will be asked, “By what authority doest thou these things? and **who gave thee** this authority?”

John MacArthur said, “[Jesus] is not under anyone but God, and He is in perfect agreement with God, as God. He has authority... He has absolute unilateral authority to do whatever He will, whenever He wills, with whomever or whatever He wills... Jesus never in His earthly life asked permission to do anything. Never. He never sought it from any normal channels in His ministry... No matter what it was, there was no authority to whom Jesus went. He quoted no rabbi. He had permission from no Sanhedrin. He had no rabbinical council to which He was answerable. He was not ordained in the appropriate way that all teachers and rabbis

were ordained. And nor was His theology checked and signed off on by the Sanhedrin. And He teaches without any connection to any prior mentor or rabbi, and without credentials, and without ordination, which could only be given by the Sanhedrin. Jesus was His own authority. He spoke prophetically. He spoke truly. He rightly interpreted the Old Testament Scripture. He spoke the true Word of God. They even admitted that. He forgave sin. He healed sick people. He raised the dead. He cast out demons. And He did it without ever seeking permission from anyone.”

2. Then who did Jesus, as God, later give authority to? The Church!

Matthew 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*