

# The Sermon on the Mount

## "He Taught As One Having Authority" (Matthew 7:28-29)

### INTRODUCTION:

- I. As we bring our series of studies of The Sermon on the Mount to a conclusion I think it's IMPERATIVE that we clearly understand the importance of what we have spent all this time studying.
  - A. From the moment Jesus Christ entered the stage of human history His message and His preaching focused on ONE CENTRAL THEME – the *"gospel of the kingdom."*
    1. **Mark 1:14-15** – *Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*
    2. **Matthew 4:17** – *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*
    3. **Matthew 4:23-25** – *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they*

*brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. 25 Great multitudes followed Him — from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.*

- B. The preaching of Jesus was described by Matthew and Mark as simply the "*gospel of the kingdom.*"
1. Jesus was preaching the GOSPEL – the GOOD NEWS – about the coming KINGDOM.
  2. This kingdom would not be the kind of physical kingdom the Israelites were familiar with. It would be a SPIRITUAL KINGDOM – a kingdom where the Messiah would reign as Lord of lords and King of kings within the hearts of His disciples.
  3. It would be a spiritual kingdom that would best be characterized as an intimate, holy RELATIONSHIP between the Lord and His devoted disciples.
- C. However, to be a PART of that kingdom – to ENTER INTO that relationship with the Lord in this spiritual kingdom – there would FIRST need to be dramatic change in the lives of those who would become the Lord's disciples.

1. There would be a need to manifest GENUINE REPENTANCE, as well as a need to both KNOW the will of the Lord, and DO the will of the Lord in every area of our lives.
  2. Therefore, to SIMPLIFY the gospel of the kingdom and reduce it to its most ELEMENTARY form, Jesus went up on a mountain, followed by throngs of His disciples, and sat down to preach the most profound sermon in the history of the world – a sermon we know today as The Sermon on the Mount.
- II. So, as we look back on this sermon, what is this sermon all about, and why has it had such a dramatic impact on mankind since it was first preached some two thousand years ago by Jesus?
- A. It's been said, if we were to take all the principles of Christian character and all the principles of Christian living found in the New Testament, and condense all that into its most simple and elementary form, we would have The Sermon on the Mount.
1. In other words, The Sermon on the Mount summarizes the CHARACTER and ATTRIBUTES of a true disciple of Christ.
  2. In preaching the "GOSPEL (good news) of the kingdom," Jesus was introducing the fundamental truths of the Law of Christ.

3. Although Jesus was teaching to a Jewish audience who were living under the Old Testament Law of Moses, the Lord's teachings in The Sermon on the Mount apply to US TODAY just as much as they did to His disciples over two-thousand years ago.
  4. These are timeless KINGDOM PRINCIPLES – timeless ETERNAL TRUTHS.
- B. Anyone who had sat at the feet of Jesus on that day when He preached The Sermon on the Mount would have immediately recognized something different about this Man and His message.
1. In fact, Matthew ends his record of The Sermon on the Mount with these words: **Matthew 7:28-29** – *And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*
    - a. The word "*ASTONISHED*" used here by Matthew has a very interesting origin.
    - b. The root word in the Greek means to strike or hit something with force or to expel something with a hard blow – such as someone getting the wind knocked out of them by a sudden punch in the stomach.

- c. In a more figurative sense, the word was often used to describe someone who was shocked out of their senses by some sudden blow.
  - d. So, it would be safe to say that those who heard the message of Jesus on this occasion were AWESTRUCK and caught completely off guard – they were AMAZED and SHOCKED at the things He said.
2. However, this isn't the FIRST TIME people were shocked and astonished at the teaching of Jesus.
- a. In fact, **Mark 1:21-22** tells us that Jesus and His disciples: "...  
*went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. 22 And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*"
  - b. **Mark 6:1-3** – *Then He went out from there and came to His own country [Nazareth], and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of*

*Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him.*

3. But why would people get so UPSET at the teaching of Jesus – why would they become OFFENDED.
4. The reason is simply because Jesus didn't teach like any Rabbi or scribe they had ever heard before – He taught as one having AUTHORITY!
  - a. Rabbi's, scribes and other teachers of the Law merely INTERPRETED the Law of Moses.
  - b. But Jesus spoke as One who had the RIGHT and the AUTHORITY to MAKE law.
5. Throughout The Sermon on the Mount Jesus said:
  - a. **Matthew 5:21-22** – *"You have heard that it was said to those of old... But I say to you..."* (also see: Matt 5:27-28; 5:31-32; 5:33-34; 5:38-39; 5:43-44)
  - b. Six times in 22 verses Jesus told His audience *"this is what you've heard declared from the Law of Moses,"* or *"this is what you were told the Law of Moses taught, but I say to you this is what you need to be doing to be able to enter the kingdom of heaven – these are the eternal truths, the timeless principles,*

*that are the foundational teaching of the gospel of the kingdom."*

- c. No Rabbi or scribe – regardless of how knowledgeable or learned they were – would even DARE to say the things Jesus said.
- C. Therefore, since Jesus taught the people as one having authority, the question we want to consider is "Did Jesus REALLY HAVE the authority to speak this way?"
1. He may have TAUGHT with authority, but did He HAVE the right to COMMAND these things?
  2. And should we, who read the things He taught, follow these teachings – are they something WE need to obey today?
  3. To answer these questions, let's take some time to examine the AUTHORITY of Jesus Christ and see if He indeed DOES have the authority to command things of US, His disciples, today.
  4. And let's also attempt to understand WHY Jesus has this authority and WHERE His authority originates.

**BODY:**

- I. When we examine the Scriptures for answers about the authority of Jesus Christ, one of the FIRST things we notice is that His authority is INHERENT.
  - A. By this we mean the authority of Jesus is INTRINSIC – it is the very essence of WHO and WHAT He is.
    1. Jesus has AUTHORITY by virtue of the fact that He is DEITY – He is God the Son, and was even called GOD and JEHOVAH in Scripture.
      - a. **John 1:1** – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
      - b. **Romans 9:3-5** – *For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God.*
      - c. **Psalms 24:7-10** (ASV) A Messianic psalm – *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory will come in. 8 Who is the King of glory? Jehovah strong and mighty, Jehovah mighty in battle. 9 Lift*

*up your heads, O ye gates; yea, lift them up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory will come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? Jehovah of hosts, He is the King of glory.*

- d. **Isaiah 44:6** (ASV) A Messianic prophecy – *Thus saith Jehovah, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, Jehovah of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God.*
- (1). **Revelation 1:11** – *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last..."*
- (2). **Revelation 1:17-18** – *"Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last . 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore." (also see: Rev 2:8; 22:13)*
- e. **Isaiah 40:3-5** (ASV) A messianic prophecy – *The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of Jehovah; make level in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the uneven shall be made level, and the rough places a plain: 5 and the glory of Jehovah shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it.*

(1). This prophecy is fulfilled in the work of John the Baptist preparing the way for the coming of Jesus Christ.

(2). **Matthew 3:1-3** – *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'"*

(3). **Mark 1:1-3** – *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'"*

f. **Malachi 3:1** (ASV) – *Behold, I send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant, whom ye desire, behold, he cometh, saith Jehovah of hosts.*

(1). It is "*Jehovah of hosts*" who is speaking in this prophecy of Malachi and says He will send His messenger before Him

to prepare HIS WAY. John the Baptist was the messenger in fulfillment of this prophecy who prepared the way before JESUS CHRIST.

2. Not only does Jesus have AUTHORITY by virtue of the fact that He is DEITY – God the Son – He also has AUTHORITY by virtue of the fact that He is the CREATOR.
  - a. **John 1:1-3** – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*
  - b. **Colossians 1:16** – *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*
  - c. **Hebrews 1:1-2** – *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds...*
  - d. As the CREATOR, Jesus has the authority to EXPECT and DEMAND WHATEVER He desires of His creation.

3. Jesus also has all AUTHORITY by virtue of the fact that He is the REDEEMER.
  - a. **1 Peter 1:18-19** – *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*
  - b. **Ephesians 1:7** – *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*
  - c. As our Redeemer, He certainly has authority over those who have been purchased by His blood!
- B. As Deity, Creator, and Redeemer, Jesus has both the INHERET right and has EARNED the right to speak with authority.
  1. Knowing all this, who would DARE challenge the authority of Jesus Christ to COMMAND US and to DEMAND OF US our complete obedience to Him in every area of our lives.
  2. We would not even exist if it were not for the creative power of Jesus Christ.

3. And if Jesus had not willingly humbled Himself by coming into this world and taking upon Himself the form of His own creation, and then allowed Himself to be brutally beaten, scourged and eventually crucified for US, we would have NO HOPE beyond the grave.
  4. But Jesus DOES have ALL AUTHORITY because His authority is INTRINSIC.
  5. It is the very essence of WHO and WHAT He is – Deity, Creator, and Redeemer.
- II. We can also know something about the AUTHORITY of Jesus Christ by considering who RECOGNIZED His authority when He walked the earth.
- A. For example, we know Jesus had all authority by virtue of the fact that the ANGELS OF HEAVEN recognized His authority, and actually WORSHIPPED Him.
    1. They worshipped Him when He came into the world.
      - a. **Hebrews 1:6** – *But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."*
      - b. **Luke 2:8-14** – *Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the*

*glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

2. The angels of heaven worshipped Him when He returned to heaven to take His place on His throne as King of kings and Lord of lords.
  - a. **Revelation 5:11-13** – *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and*

*all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

3. If the angels of heaven considered Jesus worthy of worship, praise and adoration, and if they considered Him worthy to receive power and authority, should we give Jesus Christ anything LESS?
- B. But, ironically, the authority and power of Jesus Christ was ALSO recognized by DEAMONS.
1. Demons not only ACKNOWLEDGED that Jesus had the power and the authority to destroy them, but demons even OBEYED His commands.
    - a. **Mark 1:23-26** – *Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!" 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" 26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.*
  2. Even though Demons possessed powers of their own, they were POWERLESS against the might and the authority of Jesus Christ.

3. In fact, the apostle Paul said Jesus "...*disarmed principalities and powers*" and that "*He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them...* " (**Colossians 2:15**)
  4. No one could have displayed such power over demons unless He had the AUTHORITY of Heaven behind Him.
- C. Therefore, both ANGELS IN HEAVEN and DEMONS IN HELL recognized the power and the authority of Jesus Christ.
1. Angels worshipped Him.
  2. The Devil and his angels feared Him.
- III. However, there's one final aspect about the authority of Jesus Christ that should give us COMFORT as His followers.
- A. No matter how bleak and uncertain the future may look, no matter what happens in the political, economic, or global arenas, Jesus Christ has authority over it all.
1. He has UNIVERSAL AUTHORITY over all creation:
    - a. This was proclaimed by the Lord Himself just prior to His ascension into heaven: **Matthew 28:18** – *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."*

- b. It was given to Him when He was resurrected from the dead and ascended into heaven to sit on His throne: **Ephesians 1:19-23** – *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*
- c. It was prophesied by David: **Psalms 2:7-12** – *"I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" 10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way,*

*when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*

- d. It was proclaimed by the apostle Paul: **Romans 13:1** – *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

- (1). The GOD Paul has reference to is God the Son, Jesus Christ, *"the eternally blessed God"* whom, as we read earlier in **Romans 9:3-5**, is over all.

- e. And it was revealed by John in Revelation: **Revelation 1:5** – *Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.*

- 2. Not only does Jesus Christ have universal authority over all creation – over heaven and earth and all who dwell on the earth – He ALSO has universal authority over the body of those who have been redeemed by His blood (THE CHURCH).

- a. **Colossians 1:17-18** – *And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*

- b. This means, when it comes to AUTHORITY in the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – authority for EVERYTHING we believe, teach and practice – we MUST go to the teachings of Jesus Christ revealed through the Holy Spirit inspired apostles, and recorded in the pages of the New Testament.
- c. It doesn't matter what WE think – it matters only what the LORD COMMANDS.

## **CONCLUSION:**

- I. So as we bring this series of studies on The Sermon on the Mount to a close, the last thing we need to keep CLEARLY in mind is the ABSOLUTE and INTRINSIC AUTHORITY of Jesus Christ.
  - A. Our Savior now sits enthroned in heaven, having received all power and all authority over all His creation. We KNOW He has all authority:
    - 1. Because of Who and What He is – Deity, Creator and Redeemer.
    - 2. Because even the angels of heaven recognized His divine power and majesty, and His worthiness to receive worship, and because the demons also recognized His power and authority over them – power and authority to bind and destroy them.

3. Because He was given all authority in heaven and on earth, and because He rules among the nations with a rod of iron as King of kings and Lord of lords.
  4. And finally because He was given to be head over all things to the church, the body of those redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.
- B. Is it any wonder then that when Jesus spoke, He amazed and shocked people by the things He said?
1. This is why Matthew concludes His account of The Sermon on the Mount with these words: **Matthew 7:28-29** – *And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*
  2. But sadly, even though people recognized Jesus spoke with authority, not everyone would be willing to submit to His authority.
  3. Many hearing Him that day would walk away, and go back to living their lives the way they always had in the past – being their OWN authority, and doing as THEY please.
- II. If you had been there that day, hearing Jesus speak with all the authority of heaven behind Him because of Who and What He was – God the Son – how would you have reacted?

- A. Would you have OBEYED Him or REJECTED Him?
  - 1. That was the choice those people were given who sat at the feet of Jesus on that hillside in Galilee some two-thousand years ago.
  - 2. They could either start from that moment to DO the things they HEARD Jesus command, or they could simply HEAR the things Jesus said but then walk away and go on living their lives the same as they always had.
  
- B. You have the same choice, right now, that they had on that day.
  - 1. What will YOUR decision be – to HEAR and DO the things Jesus commands, or to simply HEAR these things and leave here this morning and go back to living YOUR life the way you have in the past?