

## The One who Owns Authority

Matthew 7.28-29

### Overview

- **Christ owns/possesses/has authority**
  - The crowds are astonished by His teachings
    - Astonished: “To strike out of” (i.e. Their minds were blown)
  - Why are they astonished at His teachings?
    - Vs. 29: For He was teaching as one who HAD authority
      - The understanding of the crowds and the Bible is that Jesus understood Himself to own Authority (like you would own a car or a piece of clothing, etc.)
      - We see this in other places in the Gospels: Mark 1.22 & Luke 4.32
    - This was not like the Scribes:
      - The Scribes would have pointed to the authority but never would they have taught in the sense that they owned the Authority themselves
    - Jesus was understood to have taught that He owned Authority
    - “All Authority”: Matthew 28.19
      - Crowds: Recall that Jesus saw the crowds and gathered His disciples and spoke to them (5.1-2)
      - Crowds, who are not understood to be His disciples, are the ones that are listening in and are astonished
- **Where do the Crowds pick up Jesus’ understanding as having authority?**
  - Matthew 5.3: Jesus is able to discern and then designate those who gain the Kingdom
  - Matthew 5.11: Jesus understands there will be persecution on HIS name...not simply the teaching, but Himself:
    - From there He says that His disciples will be the salt & light of the world (5.13-15):
    - Taken together (11 & 13-15): Jesus is teaching the “Great Commission”...that witnesses will go into the world to testify to Him (as King)
  - Matthew 5.17: Understands Himself to Fulfill the Authority that made them a people (Bible)
    - Jesus sees Himself as the Answers to the Promises of the Bible
  - After moving into the body of the Sermon, Jesus will frequently quote the Old Testament and then come of it with “I say”:
    - He does not speak like the prophets who said: “Thus says the Lord...”
    - Also, Jesus is able to see the root of the text and provide an authoritative interpretation
  - Matthew 7.21-23: Jesus understands that He will be the one people will have to answer to as ‘the Lord’ and He will be the one that will designate them and He is the one that has the ability to ‘Know’ someone perfectly in order to make that designation
    - Based off of all of this...Jesus either owns All Authority, or He is a Lunatic...there is no third option
- **Jesus uses His authority for the good of others (Matt. 7.12, Matt. 20:20-28; Mark 10.45, etc.)**
  - So we can trust that His authority is for our good
  - We all operate by an authority, the question is, is it a good one? The right one?

- Jesus, the Authority, came to bring us into the Authority we were made to live for
- He made that possible by modeling what He asks us to do by laying down His life
- The way we show that we trust His authority is by making disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all that Christ commanded
  - This was the connection that Christ Himself made in Matthew 28.18-20

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *Discuss the various authorities in the world and their reliability and trustworthiness.*

1. Read Matthew 7.28-29: What was it that astonished the crowds? How do you think Jesus' authority was different than their Scribes?
2. Point to the places in the Sermon on the Mount where Christ positions Himself as owning Authority.
3. In what ways does Jesus' claim to own authority provide only two options to understand how He saw Himself, how the crowds saw Him, and how the Bible presents Him?
4. How can we be sure that His authority is good? How can you be sure that you can trust Him, especially when His teachings or times are difficult?
5. In what way does Jesus model what He expects for us in the Gospel?
6. Read Matthew 28.18-20: After declaring His authority, how does Jesus expect us to display our belief in His authority beyond just words? Explain why this is true.
7. What are some ways we can be about making disciples?
8. Share some victories, defeats, open up to questions as to how to help engage in discipling relationships.
9. Pray that Restoration Church would make disciples who delight in the Supremacy of Christ. Pray for those who are making disciples in your group. Pray for those these people are investing in.

**Accountability Question:** *What are some areas you are fearful to give control up to Christ? How can you pray for areas of defeat? How can you praise God for areas where his authority is present in your life?*