

- I. Opening Thoughts
 - A. Jesus taught with authority as God's Son
 - B. The Scriptures are our basis for authority
 - C. God's word is truth
- II. Exegetical notes
 - A. Vs. 15 – "The Jews marveled"
 1. Whenever Jesus taught, He taught with the authority of the Father; it was supernatural
 2. The authority comes from the truth of Scripture
 3. The Holy Spirit enables believers to speak with Scriptural authority and boldness
 4. Authority has to have its basis in truth.
 5. Jesus did not study under the rabbis (teachers) of His day; nor did He cite other Rabbi's teachings in His teachings; He taught with the authority of God, not man
 6. Misinterpreted Scripture loses its authority
 7. Matthew 7:28-29; Acts 4:8,13
 - B. Vs. 16 – "My teaching is not mine"
 1. The quality of Jesus' teaching as distinguished from the teaching of others during His day was found in its source, i.e., the Father gave it to Him (8:26, 40, 46-47; 12:49-50). The rabbis relied on the authority of others (a long chain of human tradition); Jesus' authority centered in Himself
 2. Jesus was in complete union with, not in rebellion against, the Father
 - C. Vss. 17-18
 1. Those who truly know God's will and His Word know God's truth
 2. If we choose God's will, we will know that Jesus' words are not His own, but the words of God
 3. God's truth is self-authenticating through the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us into truth (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20)
 4. Those who are not Spirit-led do not understand the truths of God's word – 1 Corinthians 2:10-16
 5. Anytime we speak God's Word, we should do so to the glory of the Father
 6. All truth is based on God's word. It is truth – John 17:17
 7. The one who prides himself on being his own man, on speaking on his own, has his ego bound up with his witness, and so at least in part he speaks to gain honor for himself. Jesus is quite unlike that – Carson (vs. 18)
 8. Jesus is totally committed to working for the honor of the Father. SO should we.
 9. Paul did not seek his own glory. He sought the approval of God. He did not try to please man – Galatians 1:10
 - D. Vss. 19-23
 1. The Jewish leaders were seeking to put Jesus to death because of the good works He did and the authority with which He taught. Essentially, they were jealous and envious
 2. They sought to kill Him (5:16-19 because He healed on the Sabbath. He exposed their hypocrisy because they circumcised on the Sabbath as well. The Jews broke their own Sabbath law with the circumcision of the child
 3. The law said you should not kill; yet they were trying to kill Him
 4. When Scripture gives authority, we must adhere to its authority. Don't be a hypocrite. Repent!
 5. They judged Jesus of being a Sabbath breaker, which was not a correct judgment.
 6. While Jesus forbade harsh, censorious judgment that self-righteous legalism promotes, He demanded the exercise of moral and theological discernment
 7. People want an excuse for their sin. God offers grace for our sin. When sin is exposed, we have three choices: 1) lie and hide, 2) become angry, or 3) confess and repent. The authority of Scripture brings judgment on those who do not repent.
 8. Judge sin as a fellow sinner, not as one who does not sin.
 9. In an age when Matthew 7:1 has displaced John 3:16 as the only verse in the Bible the man on the street is likely to know, it is perhaps worth adding that Matthew 7:1 forbids judgmentalism, not moral discernment. By contrast, John 7:24 demands moral and theological discernment in the context of obedient faith (7:17), while excoriating self-righteous legalism and offering no sanction for censorious heresy-hunting – Carson on vs. 24