

JANUARY 25, 2026

ESTABLISHED: WHEN AUTHORITY IS REVEALED

Text: Matthew 7:28–29 (KJV)

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew tells us:

They were amazed. They were impressed. They were moved.

But here's the question that hangs over at this moment:

Were they changed?

POINT I — AUTHORITY FLOWS FROM TRUTH LIVED

"...for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. v28"

Jesus didn't just *sound* authoritative. He was authoritative.

The scribes had:

- **Titles, training, tradition and reputation**

But Jesus had authority.

Why? Because authority is not assigned, it is recognized.

Jesus didn't quote others to validate Himself. He spoke truth from alignment with the Father.

Authority flows from truth lived, not truth memorized.

Are you leaning on position or obedience?

Are you speaking from habit or from surrender?

When your walk matches your words, people may not like you but they'll listen to you. Obedience gives weight to your witness.

POINT II — AMAZEMENT WITHOUT TRANSFORMATION IS DANGEROUS

"The people were astonished..."

Astonishment is not repentance. Admiration is not obedience.

Amazement is not transformation.

They were impressed but not necessarily changed.

You can sit under the best teaching of your life and still walk away unchanged if truth never moves from your ears to your actions.

He didn't offer suggestions. He didn't negotiate standards.

He spoke with authority because truth demands response.

Truth does not ask permission. Truth requires submission.

Warning

Being impressed by Jesus is not the same as following Jesus.

Churches are full of people who:

- **Love sermons**
- **Quote Scripture**
- **Take notes**
- **Share clips**

...but never change their building materials.

Ask yourself this: What truth have I heard repeatedly but delayed obeying?

Delayed obedience is still disobedience.

Storms don't test what you know, they reveal what you've done.

POINT III — CHRIST IS THE TRUE FOUNDATION

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by pointing not just to teachings—but to Himself.

He is not just a moral instructor. He is not just a wise teacher. He is the foundation.

You can build your life:

- On knowledge
- On talent
- On success
- On religious activity

And still collapse.

Because a life built on principles without a person will not stand. You don't just believe what Jesus said you build on who Jesus is.

This is not a call to hear better sermons. This is a call to build deeper lives.

- **Is Christ my foundation or just my influence?**

Only a life anchored in Christ stands when storms arrive.

POINT IV — JESUS' AUTHORITY DEMANDS A RESPONSE

Jesus ends the sermon; now responsibility starts.

He neither pursues the crowd nor dilutes the message.

His goal is alignment, not amazement. Storms will come to believers, churches, families, and leaders, revealing obedience rather than admiration.

Authority always places the burden on the hearer.

Conclusion:

Authority grows where obedience lives.

Build wisely.

Stand firmly.

And stay ESTABLISHED-rooted to last.