

February 18th – As One Having Authority

*“Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”
(Mark 1:21-22)*

There are many types of preachers. Some preach for the right reasons and some preach for the wrong reasons. Some preach to glorify God and some preach to promote themselves. There are true men of God and there are false teachers, and in the 21st century the line seems to have blurred between the two. Some say that a preacher should not try to preach with any authority. Rather, he should consider the perspective of his audience and make some inductive comments based on their experience.

I imagine there were just about as many false teachers in Christ’s day as there are today. The Pharisees, Sadducees, and religious leaders of the day were often among them. Often, they would preach the traditions of men with very little reference to the Word of God. Yet, when Jesus came everything changed. After His baptism, temptation, and the selection of some early disciples, the Bible says Jesus went to Capernaum and taught the people on the Sabbath.

Immediately, those listening in the synagogue noticed the difference. Christ wasn’t like all their other teachers. I’m sure many of the rabbis who taught in the synagogue simply repeated what they heard from the religious leaders in Jerusalem. Jesus was different – “He taught them as One having authority.” He didn’t meander around talking about traditions and guidelines. He dove into the Word of God and preached in the power of the Holy Spirit – something preachers must still do today! The authority always rests in the Word of God.