

Matthew 7:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Analysis

The crowds' astonishment at Jesus' teaching stemmed from His inherent authority in contrast to the scribes' derivative authority. Scribes taught by citing previous rabbinical opinions and traditions, but Jesus taught as one possessing intrinsic authority—'I say unto you.' This authority derived from His divine nature as the eternal Word incarnate. His teaching carried self-authenticating power, requiring no external validation or appeals to tradition. This distinction between Christ and all merely human teachers remains absolute.

Historical Context

Scribes were professional interpreters of the law who taught by appealing to previous rabbis' interpretations, creating chains of tradition. Their authority was derivative and traditional. Jesus' direct proclamation 'But I say unto you' (Matthew 5:22, 28, 32, etc.) claimed unique authority shocking to hearers accustomed to traditional rabbinic methodology.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' teaching with inherent authority demonstrate His divine identity and unique qualifications as Teacher?
2. What difference should Christ's absolute authority make in how you receive and obey His word compared to human teaching?

Interlinear Text

ἵν γὰρ διδάσκων αὐτοὺς ὡς ἔξουσίαν ἔχων καὶ
G2258 For he taught them as authority one having and
G1063 G1321 G846 G5613 G1849 G2192 G2532

οὐχ ὡς οἱ γραμματεῖς
not as G3588 the scribes
G3756 G5613 G1122

Additional Cross-References

Luke 20:8 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Isaiah 50:4 (Parallel theme): The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.