

# Matthew 7:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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ἦν	γὰρ	διδάσκων	αὐτοὺς	ὥς	ἐξουσίαν	ἔχων	καὶ
G2258	<b>For</b>	<b>he taught</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>authority</b>	<b>one having</b>	<b>and</b>
	G1063	G1321	G846	G5613	G1849	G2192	G2532
οὐχ	ὥς	οἱ	γραμματεῖς				
<b>not</b>	<b>as</b>	G3588	<b>the scribes</b>				
G3756	G5613		G1122				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.