

## THE EXPLOSIVE POWER OF THE WORD

Matthew 7:28-29

### I. INTRODUCTION

### II. THE TEXT

**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.*

**NIV**—28 *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

**NASB**—28 *When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; 29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.*

**ESV**—28 *And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29 for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes*

**The Message**—*When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying—quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.*

❖ **astonished/amazed**—**ἐκπλήσσω** = strike/blow—drive away—cause panic—“blow away”

### III. SIMILAR BIBLICAL PASSAGES

#### 1. In the Temple—as a boy

**Lk 2:46-50**—46 *Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were **amazed** at His understanding and His answers. 48 When they saw Him, they were **astonished**; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.” 49 And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.*

**v46**—**amazed**—**ἐξίστημι** = beside oneself—out of one’s mind—away from one’s stance

**v47**—**astonished**—**ἐκπλήσσω** = same as in **Mt 7**—strike/blow—“blow away”

#### 2. Capernaum—at the synagogue

**Mk 1:21-22**—21 *They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were **amazed** at His teaching because He taught them as one who had authority and not as the teachers of the law.*

**v22**—**amazed**—**ἐκπλήσσω** = same as in **Mt 7**—“blow away”

#### 3. In Nazareth—at the synagogue

**Mk 6:1-3**—1 *Jesus left there and went to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples.* 2 *When the Sabbath came He began to teach in the synagogue and many who heard Him were amazed.* “Where did this man get these things,” they asked, “and what is this wisdom that has been given to Him that He even does miracles? Isn’t this the carpenter? 3 *Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Are not his sisters here among us? And they took offence at Him.* [Mt 13:54-57]

v2—amazed— **ἐκπλήσσω** = same as in Mt 7—“blow away”

## IV. AMAZEMENT IN GOSPELS

### A. IN MATTHEW

1. **ἐκπλήσσω** = strike—blow—drive out/away—cause panic—astonish—amaze—to “blow away”
  - Jesus’ words in the Sermon—were very powerful
  - They “blew away”—the people—like being knocked over by a feather
  - They were “dumb-struck”
2. Other occasions of *this* kind of amazement/astonishment in Matthew—3 more instances
  - Teaching in the Synagogue in Capernaum—**Mt 13**
  - Disciples’ response to His “camel-needle” analogy about Rich Young Ruler—**Mt 19**
  - Crowd’s response to Jesus’ answer to Sadducees’ riddle about marriage in heaven—**Mt 22**
3. This kind of amazement— **ἐκπλήσσω**
  - In Matthew—always when people were amazed—at what Jesus **said**
  - The less common form of amazement in Matthew
4. The more *common* form of amazement in Matthew
  - a. **θαυμάζω** = wonder—marvel in admiration
  - b. Used 8 times
    1. Mostly responses to Jesus’ **miraculous power**
      - o Disciples marveled—Jesus stilled the storm—**8:27**
      - o Crowds marveled—healing of paralytic [forgiven of sin]—**9:8**
      - o Crowds marveled—healing of demon-possessed mute—**9:33**
      - o Crowds marveled—healing mute, crippled, lame, blind—**15:31**

- o Disciples marveled—when fig tree withered—**21:20**
- 2. Occasionally responses to **what Jesus said—or refused to say**
  - o Pharisees marveled—Jesus saying, “Give to Caesar”—**22:22**
  - o Pilate marveled—that Jesus remained silent—**27:14**
- 3. Once—**Jesus Himself marveled!**
  - o Jesus marveled—at the centurion’s faith—**8:10**

## B. IN MARK

1. Even more emphasis on power—miracles—amazement in Mark
2. **Four** different words to express ‘amazement’ in Mark
  - **ἐκπλήσσω** = as in Matthew—to strike—“blow away”
  - **θαυμάζω** = as in Matthew—wonder—marvel in admiration
  - **ἐξίστημι** = thrown out of place—out of one’s mind—beside oneself—like **Lk 2**
  - **θαμβέω** and **ἐκθαμβέω** = terrified—frightened—astonished
3. Most were **responses to miracles—or fear** at alarming situations
  - o **Mk 2:12**—healing of the paralytic who took up his mat
  - o **Mk 5:20**—when Legion gave his testimony in the Decapolis, everyone marveled
  - o **Mk 5:42**—completely astonished at the raising of Jairus’s daughter
  - o **Mk 6:51**—When he got into boat, wind died down—astonished and marveled
  - o **Mk 7:37**—When he healed the deaf mute in the Decapolis
  - o **Mk 9**—As they ran to Jesus, when arguing with scribes, after transfiguration
  - o **Mk 10:32**—those who followed Jesus and disciples on the way to Jerusalem astonished
  - o **Mk 15:44**—Pilate marveled that Jesus was already dead
  - o **Mk 16:5-6**—the women were alarmed upon entering tomb; angel said not to be alarmed
4. Some were responses to Jesus’ words—or silence
  - o **Mk 1:27**—Synagogue in Capernaum—at His teaching
  - o **Mk 6:2**—Synagogue in Nazareth—teaching and miracles

- o **Mk 10:24**—disciples first astonished at Jesus’ words to Rich Young Ruler
- o **Mk 10:26**—disciples to Jesus’ response about camel going through eye of needle
- o **Mk 12:17**—The Pharisees and Herodians—after Jesus answered the tax question
- o **Mk 15:5**—Pilate amazed at Jesus’ silence

5. Three instances –were used to describe Jesus Himself

\***Mk 3:21**—Jesus’ family said he was ‘out of His mind’

\***Mk 6:6**—Jesus **marveled** at their lack of faith

\***Mk 14**—Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane—was **troubled** and distressed

## V. AUTHORITY IN MATTHEW

1. Meaning = **ἐξουσία** = power—rule—jurisdiction
2. Examples of usage in Matthew
  - a. **Governing** authority—power to command **submission** of others—commanding **obedience**
    - o **8:9**—**the Centurion**—“I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me . . .”
    - o **10:1**—Jesus gave Apostles authority over evil spirits
  - b. **Physical** power—to perform **miracles**
    - o **9:8**—crowd was amazed God had given such authority to men [Jesus healing paralytic]
  - c. **Spiritual** power—to **forgive** sin—**legal** power to judge and forgive
    - o **9:6**—Jesus to paralytic—“So you may know the Son of Man has authority on earth” . .
  - d. Power of **choice**—liberty to do as He pleased—in reference to the Law
    - o **21:23-24, 27**—religious leaders asked Jesus by what authority He did these things
  - e. **Comprehensive**: choice—spiritual/physical—rule/commanding obedience—  
influence/privilege—legal jurisdiction
    - o **28:18**—Jesus said—*all* authority was given to Him—in heaven and on earth

## VI. WHY JESUS’ WORDS WERE SO AMAZING AND POWERFUL

1. WHAT JESUS’ HEARERS KNEW ABOUT HIM THEN

a. They saw Him as a **miracle-worker**—who acted with **power**!

- o They had already seen Him perform many miracles of healing—**4:23-25**
- o So—they were already pre-disposed to be amazed—at what He said
- o These miracles reinforced their astonishment at His spoken authority

**Mk 1:27**—[after exorcizing the demon-possessed man in the Capernaum synagogue] *They were all so **amazed** that they asked each other, “What is this, a new teaching, and with **authority**? He even gives orders to evil spirits, and they obey Him!*

b. That saw Him as a **prophet**—who spoke with **authority**!

1. Like John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the Old Testament prophets

**Mk 6:14-15**—[As the apostles’ ministry after Nazareth gained attention] *King Herod heard about this, for Jesus’ name had become well-known. Some were saying, “He is John the Baptist, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” Others said, “He is Elijah.” And still others claimed, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”*

2. He fulfilled all the expectations of a prophet

- o He forth-told with power/authority—as in the Sermon on the Mount
- o As He fore-told—His prophecies were accurately fulfilled
- o He fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecies
- o He performed miracles

3. This is how they identified Him at the ‘triumphal entry’ into Jerusalem

**Mt 21:11**—*And the crowds were saying “This is the **prophet** Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.”*

## 2. WHAT WE NOW KNOW ABOUT JESUS

a. His **Identity**—He was the **Word** of God—**λογος**

- o Who had **created** everything—and possessed **ultimate authority**
- o Who is the **Living** Word—alive and **powerful** and penetrating

**Heb 4:12**—*For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

b. His **Knowledge**—He *authored* the Word of God

- o He knew it better than anyone else!
- c. His **Authority**—He was the Word of God delivering the Word of God!
  - o His Words fulfilled the Old Covenant—explained it fully
  - o His Words formed the basis for the New Covenant
  - o He was literally speaking new words of Scripture—at that very moment!

*Jn 1:17—For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*

- d. **Self-validation** of His words—reinforced by the Father

*Jn 8:14-18—Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me. Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.*

- e. Validation by His **miracles**—and fulfilment of **prophecy**

1. Gave proof He was the Messiah—to John’s disciples—**Mt 11:4-6**—fulfills **Is 35/61**

- Blind receive sight
- Lame walk
- Lepers cleansed
- Deaf hear
- Dead are raised
- Poor have the gospel preached to them

2. Later—miracles validated the Apostles’ message

*Mk 16:20—The disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it.*

- 3. **GHANDI’S RESPONSE**—IS INSIGHTFUL—ABOUT MODERN ‘CHRISTIANITY’

"The message of Jesus as I understand it," said Gandhi, "is contained in the Sermon on the Mount unadulterated and taken as a whole... If then I had to face only the Sermon on the Mount and my own interpretation of it, I should not hesitate to say, 'Oh, yes, I am a Christian.' But negatively I can tell you that in my humble opinion, what passes as Christianity is a negation of the Sermon on the Mount... I am speaking of the Christian belief, of Christianity as it is understood in the west."