

“Never Man Spake Like This Man”

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John 7:43-46

Who is it that is not interested in hearing the words of great men?

There are great speeches recorded in the Bible made by great men of God. But the words of Jesus had a different sound from all the rest.

The occasion of the text:

John 7:32, *“The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.”*

The council’s question. John 7:45, *“Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?”*

The officer’s reply. John 7:46, *“The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.”*

In what did the charm of Jesus’ speech consist?

It was not:

- Because of His fashionable clothing.
- Because of His physical beauty. Isa. 53:2, *“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”*
- Because of His academic learning. John 7:15, *“And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?”*
- Because He was a good actor.

It was because Jesus had something to say, and said it.

Never man spake like this man:

With such divine authority.

Matt. 7:29, *“For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”*

Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, *“It hath been said, ... but I say unto you.”*

- Matt. 28:18, *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”*
- Eph. 1:22-23, *“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*

But Jesus was not to remain on earth forever; therefore, someone following after Him had to come along and speak with some authority.

Therefore, Jesus trained His apostles for more than three years in the gospel of His coming kingdom; He then promised the Holy Spirit to guide them in the revelation and permanent recording of His will.

- John 16:13, *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”*
- 1 Cor. 2:12-13, *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”*

There were those living in Paul’s time that didn’t want to accept what he had to say because he persecuted the church. There are those living today that don’t accept what Paul had to say because they say he hated women.

1 Cor. 14:37, *“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”*

But Paul did not speak of his own, but as he was directed by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Hence, Paul and all of the apostles spoke with authority; they wrote with authority.

But, what about today? Anytime any gospel preacher opens God's Word and a statement is read from that Book, and it is reflected upon, taught, talked about, urged upon the people to believe it, it can be done with authority. Not because of the authority of the preacher, but because of the authority of God's Word.

I have no authority of my own, no other gospel preacher has any authority of his own, yet we can speak with authority. How? By confirming that the word we preach is God's Word.

- 2 Tim. 4:3-4, *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."*
- 1 Pet. 4:11, *"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..."*

With such divine effect.

His words stilled the tempest, which manifested His power over nature. Matt. 8:26-27, *"And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"*

His words gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, and strength to enable the lame to walk, thus demonstrating His power over disease.

His words spoke forgiveness to those in sin, thus showing His power over sin.

His words brought the dead forth from the grave, thereby showing His power over death. John 11:43-44, *"And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."*

With such wonderful simplicity.

He used words, phrases, and illustrations that the people could understand.

Mark 12:37, *"...And the common people heard him gladly."*

The gospel is a simple thing and should be spoken in words of simplicity.

Once many years ago a young brother went to correct an older preacher on something he had said and received a stern rebuke. "Don't correct me. I'm an expert on the Bible."

Isa. 35:8, "*And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.*"

Fools – not bright; unwise.

With such firmness.

He also spoke with sternness.

- Matt. 21:12-13, "*And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*"
- Matt. 23:14, "*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive theHe said in John 10:30, "I and my Father are one."*"

He claimed to have been with the Father before the world was.

- John 1:1-3, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*"
- John 17:5, "*And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*"

He not only claimed to be the Son of God, but also to be equal with the Father. Phil. 2:6, "*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.*"

Of salvation.

John 3:14-16, "*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that*

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Paul used the proper term when he called it “*so great a salvation.*” Heb. 2:3, “*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”*

Why is it so great a salvation

Because of its cost. 1 Pet. 1:18-20, “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”*

Because of its extent.

- Rom. 3:23, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*
- John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

Because it is the salvation of the soul. 1 Pet. 1:9, “*Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”*

Because of a life beyond the grave.

Before Christ came men were asking the question, as recorded in Job 14:14, “*If a man die, shall he live again? ...”*

After Christ came and died for our sins, and came forth from the grave, then men could be assured of a life after death.

- John 10:10, “*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*
- John 14:1-3, “*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”*

Jesus said He didn’t know when the end-time would be, but that His words would abide forever. Matt. 24:35, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”*

Have you wondered about why the church is so small? There are a number of reasons for this. It is disheartening when we see our numbers dwindling, but Jesus said it would be that way when He would return. Luke 18:7-8, *“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”*

Coffman Commentary: “... the church, at that last moment, will be reduced to a little remnant ...”

Why did Jesus so speak as never man spake?

Because He was God speaking to man; He was Emmanuel; He was God with us.

- John 14:24, *“He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.”*
- Heb. 1:1-3, *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*

Therefore, He is the only way to the Father.

- John 14:6, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*
- 1 Tim. 2:5, *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”*

Conclusion

We shall be judged by what Jesus has spoken.

John 12:48, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*

Will you hear Him and obey His voice today? He has told us how to become a Christian. The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 11:18, *“... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”* If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There’s a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I’m sorry; I’m sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.
- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are “**UNTO**” righteousness, life,

or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, “*But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said “*it becometh **us** to fulfil all righteousness.*” We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? “for the remission of sins”. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*” (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been*

planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

