**The Sermon on the Mount (Part 21) + Weekly Devotion + 1.15.2025**

**Matthew 7:28-29**

***“****And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,*

*for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”*

We’ve finally come to the end of the ‘Sermon on the Mount!’ After this, Jesus continues His pattern of healing, teaching, and preaching until He’s finally crucified and raised from the dead.

Matthew’s Gospel ends with the familiar ‘Great Commission’ where He tells His disciples to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus begins His final words in Matthew with “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18). Jesus has all authority because He’s God incarnate who was crucified for our sins and raised for our justification.

Jesus’ teaching always amazes people. It certainly amazed those who first heard the ‘Sermon on the Mount’ and it continues to amaze us (at least I hope it does!). It amazes those who despise Him and are offended by Him, and it amazes us who love and follow Him. Jesus has a way of preaching and teaching that’s simply beyond us, yet we can begin to believe and understand Him by faith. His parables are relatable yet we don’t always understand them, even after hearing and reading them many times over!

The scribes of Jesus’ day taught by citing other authorities. But Jesus, though He does quote the Scriptures many times, doesn’t have to. He’s the Word of God in the flesh. He speaks with the authority of God and doesn’t need to cite a higher authority than Himself.

However, Jesus says this in John 12: “For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me” (John 12:49-50). As the Athanasian Creed puts it, Jesus is “equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.” Perhaps this is why, despite being fully God and having all authority in heaven and on earth, Jesus speaks not with His own authority, but with the authority of the Father.

We can begin to grow apathetic and indifferent to Jesus’ words after hearing and reading them so many times. The problem isn’t with Jesus though, the problem is with us. It’s not that Jesus’ words are boring or uninteresting; it’s we who can be boring and uninteresting! May we never grow cold to Jesus’ words and always be amazed by them! We can never truly exhaust them. There’s always so much to learn!

Prayer: Blessed Lord, grant that we may hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Your Holy Word. Amen.