



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“Reacting to Jesus” (Matthew 7:28-29)**

Date: **March 31, 2019**

We have concluded our series in the Sermon on the Mount and now we arrive at the final two verses of Matthew 7. These verses summarize the reaction of those that heard Jesus preach this powerful sermon. How did they react to his preaching? Were they shocked at how direct and cutting his preaching was? Did they receive it by faith? Verse 28 simply says, “The crowds were astonished...” They had never quite heard anything like this before. Christ taught with an authority that was superior to that of the scribes and the Pharisees. He had true spiritual power when he preached. This reaction to Christ’s preaching is understandable, but it’s not enough. A saving response to Christ’s message is one of faith. It’s not enough to marvel at Jesus. It’s not even enough to be convicted by his teaching. We must respond in saving faith that then proves itself through obedience to his commands.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 7:28-29 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. Who are “the crowds” in verse 27? (See Matthew 4:23-25, 5:1, 8:1)
 - b. According to verse 28, how did the crowds react to his teaching? What does it mean that they were “astonished”?
 - c. What does the reaction of the crowds tell us about the nature and content of Christ’s sermon?
 - d. What does it mean that Jesus taught as one who had “authority,” (v. 29)?
 - e. What are some of the ways in which Jesus claimed to have authority in the Sermon on the Mount? (i.e. in the Beatitudes he pronounced blessings like God)
 - f. How would the authority and teaching of Jesus differ from the authority and teaching of the scribes?



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- g. Contrast the reaction of the crowds to John the Baptist's preaching in Matthew 3:1-6 with the reaction of the crowds to Jesus' preaching in Matthew 7:28-29. What is noticeably different?
- h. What does a saving response to the Sermon on the Mount look like?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. It seems that there were no conversions in response to Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. What does this tell us about successful preaching and evangelism? What makes a sermon a "successful" sermon?
3. Why do we tend to want to gauge success in evangelism and ministry based on numerical results? What Scriptures can we use to fight against this tendency?
4. How would you respond to someone who found the last few teachings in the Sermon on the Mount to be "too strong" or "too cutting"?
5. What does a saving response to the Sermon on the Mount look like in someone's life?
6. How would you witness to someone who finds themselves astonished at Jesus but lacks faith in Jesus?

Accountability Question

Looking back on the Sermon on the Mount, what is one thing that Christ talked about in the sermon that you would like to grow in obedience to? How can we hold you accountable in this?