

“Never Man Spake Like This Man”

Introduction. In John 7, Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. This was one of the three annual feasts at which attendance was required of all Jewish men (Deuteronomy 16:16). Each family constructed a temporary shelter of branches to live in for the period of the feast. This typified the years of wandering in the desert before the people entered Canaan. The feast itself was a joyful time of thanksgiving for the harvest they now enjoyed.

After preaching and persuading people at this feast, the climax of the controversy came “on the last and greatest day of the feast.” On the last day it was customary to perform a solemn ceremony with the priest filling a golden vial with water from the fount of Siloam, which was carried through the gate of the temple, mixed with wine, and poured on the sacrifice on the altar.

He promised the people that “living water” would proceed from them. When Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, he sent forth the Spirit upon his apostles on the day of Pentecost, and the apostles in turn promised the gift of the Spirit to all who would believe, repent, and be baptized. The chief priests and Pharisees wanted Him in custody, but the officers said, “Never man spake like this man” (vs. 46). Let’s see why no one ever spoke like this man.

I. ***Never Man Spake With Such Authority***

- A. Man cannot speak with authority because he does not possess authority (Matthew 7:28-29; Hebrews 1:1-2).
- B. Man cannot even guide himself, let alone others (Psalm 17:5; 37:23; 119:116-117). Man needs to follow the authority of Christ.

II. ***Never Man Spake With Such Words Of Tenderness***

- A. A common attribute that people enjoy about Jesus is His tender disposition. Even when being betrayed, He was not ungodly in His speech (Matthew 26:50).
- B. His speech demonstrated that He truly had a beautiful spirit that is worthy of imitation (Matthew 11:28-29; 23:37).

III. ***Never Man Spake With Such Love And Compassion***

- A. Man is prone to love only those who love him (Matthew 5:46-47). He is likely to love only the “lovely,” not the “unlovely.”
- B. Jesus had the greatest love that anyone could have, for He laid down His life (John 15:13), and He freely forgave others (Luke 23:34).

IV. ***Never Man Spake With Such Scathing Rebukes***

- A. The Lord had to rebuke Chorazin and Bethsaida for their unbelief (Matthew 11:20-24). They had serious issues in the judgment if they did not repent.
- B. When it was needed, Jesus could issue fierce rebukes in order to try to turn people to the truth (Matthew 23:1-33).

V. ***Never Man Spake Profound Truths With Such Simplicity***

- A. His parables were perfect instances of truth simplified by wonderful examples (Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23)
- B. Only man complicates the simple. Naaman did not accept the prophet's simple command and became angry (2 Kings 5:11-12).

VI. ***Never Man Spake With Such Words Of Hope***

- A. If we will only put God first, then He will be with us, blessing us with material goodness (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 6:33).
- B. If someone can simply follow His commands, he will furthermore be blessed with eternal life (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; John 11:25).

Conclusion. The report of the guards sent to arrest Jesus showed that He had a strong influence on all who listened to Him. His teaching had so overawed them that they could not carry out their orders. Their statement to the Jewish leaders implied that Jesus must be more than an ordinary human being. Surely He was the Son of God! One wonders if they ever became His disciples. Although curiosity carries us to consider this, the real question is whether it will cause you to become His disciple. Because man never spoke like this, you need to follow Him.