

Embrace  
Holy  
Living

# RE- FLECTING GOD

**07/10/17 - Jesus' Authority**

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Matthew 7:13-28

The people gathered around Jesus as he delivered his Sermon on the Mount had heard plenty of preaching and teaching in their day. No doubt, most of them were regular attendees at their local synagogues. Each week they heard their rabbis explaining the scriptures and rehearsing the Law of Moses. I wouldn't be surprised if some of them snoozed as the morning message was being given. They had heard it all before.

Jesus' preaching was different. They had not heard anyone preach and teach as he did. The things that Jesus preached were not the same old platitudes. Jesus' preaching touched their hearts and addressed their day-to-day lives. They felt convicted as they heard his messages. Jesus' preaching made them think, and it brought them to a place of decision. No one dared snooze off during his sermons. John tells us that even the Temple guards reported, "No one ever spoke the way this man does" (John 7:46). As the crowds listened, they were amazed! No one could listen to this preaching and remain complacent.

When we hear God's Word proclaimed, may we be more than amazed. May we be transformed!

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