

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“Authority and Power” outline**  
November 25, 2018

**Matthew 7: 28-29**

**Jesus has finished His description of what life is like as lived in the Kingdom of Heaven. It is a life without fear, anger, contempt, envy, deceit, manipulation, reliance on appearance or lust. It is a life dominated by love for God and for one another. It is a life of obedience motivated by love. It begins with the regenerative power of God working in the internal dimensions of human will, thought and feeling. It then works outward through our bodies to our relationships and works. It is a life without fear and unafraid of suffering and death. It is a life where joy is manifested even when things go counter to our own plans and decisions. To enter this life Jesus says we must die to our own. But this death is really an invitation to life! Only trust is required.**

**In response to Jesus' teaching the crowds were astonished! They are astonished mainly because Jesus is saying all these revolutionary things without any reference to an under-girding authority! It is as if the people were Moses listening to God convey His commandments. This morning we will consider the people's response as an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' power and authority and how that relates to us as His disciples.**

**1. Power and Authority**

- **Definitions**
  
- **Distinctions**  
Matt 13: 54-57a
  
- **World View Issues**

**2. Scribal Authority**

- **Definition**
  
- **Rabbinical-based authority**
  
  
- **Examples**

### **3. Jesus' Authority**

- **Power from a Higher Source**  
Mk 1: 34; 2: 5-12; Jn 17:2; Mk 4: 39-41; Jn 10: 17-18; Jn 12: 49; Phil 2:7
  
- **Authority of the Father**  
Jn12: 49; Phil 2: 5
  
- **Power of the Spirit**  
Heb. 4: 15; Jn 14:12, 16-17; Rom. 8: 11

**Closing Lesson: Ac 4: 12**

#### **Questions for Conversation and Reflection**

- 1. How do you understand the relationship between the divine and human natures in the Person of Jesus? When you read about Jesus in the Gospels do you have a sense of Him as a fellow man trusting in God or merely a divine Being? When you read about His miracles, teaching and work on the cross, do you regard His efforts more as a divine Being or as a man empowered by God? Why does it make a difference to us whether or not Jesus suffered and willed as a man like us?**
- 2. Is there a danger in regarding Jesus too much as a man? What might it be? Is there a danger in regarding Jesus too much as God? What might it be?**
- 3. If Jesus relied for His power on the Holy Spirit and for His authority on the Father what does this say about our possibilities as His disciples? How would this be different if He relied strictly on His intrinsic power as God the Son?**
- 4. How does Jesus' sermon inform your own efforts to serve God and our neighbor? Do you find yourself relying on His direction and power? Or on your own skill and expertise? How can we channel our efforts properly through Christ?**
- 5. Do people marvel at your life and works? If so, why? Do they marvel at them because they see you as special? Or because they cannot help but see the God you serve through your weakness?**