

NEVER A MAN SPAKE LIKE HIM

John 7:44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

Jesus is the word of God. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). In times past, the word of God came to a very few select people but now, thorough Jesus Christ, the word of God speaks to the entire world: Jews and gentiles, kings and priests, all heard the word of God. “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1, 2).

As the word of God, it is natural for him to speak, to declare, to communicate. The word must speak but the moment he spoke, he divided people into two: those who were arrested by his words, and those who wanted to arrest him and shut him up. Which camp are we in today? Have we been arrested by the words of Jesus, or do we try to arrest him? Today, this message will speak to both groups. One thing is clear: the words of Jesus cannot be ignored. They arouse the greatest passions in the hearts of humans. Our ears were made to hear the words of God. Our hearts were made to respond to the words of God that the ears relay to our hearts, and our hands and feet were made to respond to the meaning of the word of God. “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts” (Jeremiah 15:16).

The scribes and Pharisees had enough of the Lord Jesus Christ’s words. They sent soldiers to arrest him. “Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man” (John 7:45,46). The first thing we need to note is that scribes and Pharisees themselves could not arrest Jesus. They had no spiritual power, so they relied on the government and secular authorities to exercise their spiritual power. May the Lord help us not to be dependent on the powers of this world to accomplish the great work of heaven! Why didn’t the scribes and Pharisees pray themselves to stop the Lord? It was because they were spiritually bankrupt. They were trusting in the power of the government’s weapons rather than the weapons of God.

2Cor 10:3 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

2Cor 10:4 *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

2Cor 10:5 *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

Those who came to arrest Jesus were arrested by his words. The soldiers became the prisoners, the captors became captives. “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men” (Ephesians 4:8). Jesus is God manifested in the flesh (I Tim 3:16). He did not come to debate with humans but to declare his word. There was something about his words that demonstrated authority. The soldiers knew what authority was and they recognized divine authority in the words of Jesus. Where did Jesus’ authority come from? From the fact that he is God. “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him” (Colossians 1:16). Can we debate with the one who made all things about the nature of the creation? That would be laughable. Can we debate with the one who saw Satan fall as lightning from heaven? (Luke 10:18). Consider just four questions that God asked Job.

Job 38:4 *Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.*

Job 38:17 *Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?*

Job 38:19 *Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof,*

Job 38:35 *Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?*

No, we cannot contend with the Almighty. It is better to just hear him and be arrested by his words. Jesus declared what he made and the nature of the truth. It was especially the nature of human truth that many did not like. Jesus is the light of this world. “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). When Jesus speaks, his words shine a light on evil. The words of Jesus are powerful beams of light that expose the presence of evil. Thank God for this because then evil cowers and must leave. “And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold” (Luke 19:8). This was

what many were afraid of – the words of Jesus always shone a powerful light on hidden sin which must be repented of. People were afraid of this – they were shocked by the responses the words of Jesus triggered in individuals such as Zacchaeus. Sadly, they did not understand that this was the way to freedom. Only the words of Jesus can set us free from the lust for power, money and other evils that enslave us.

John 8:32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

John 8:36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

What is a Christian? A Christian is a person who surrendered to the words of Jesus. We heard his words, recognized their divine origin and truth and became his prisoners. This is why we love the Apostles because they were the only individuals who heard the words of Jesus for three years and were commissioned to declare Jesus' words to the rest of the world. Even the Apostles were commanded to hear Jesus when they became distracted: "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him (Matt 17:5). What did they tell us? That God is one, that he was manifested in his own flesh and blood, that his name is Jesus, that he saved us through the shedding of his blood in his death, burial and resurrection, and that he is coming back to judge the world.

Act 2:37 *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

Act 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*