



Righteousness in the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 5-7

- Righteousness in the Kingdom of Heaven



Why study the sermon on the mount?

- Why study the sermon on the mount?
 - Silly question ... if answer is Jesus taught it, so it must be important.

Why study the sermon on the mount?

- Many of us have grown up in an environment that is essentially “Christian”
 - So we’ve grown up “knowing” about Jesus and what it means to live as a Christian.
 - We’ve become accustomed to the teachings... and often we don’t find Jesus astonishing nor his teaching astonishing.



Why study the sermon on the mount?

- Or at least some version of it.
 - One of the attacks against us is that we are really no different than anyone else in the world.



Why study the sermon on the mount?

- This is also very true for the Jews during the time of Jesus...
 - They had heard the stories
 - They knew the explanations of their teachers



Why study the sermon on the mount?

- But they were not really living as God had intended...
 - Mark 6:34: When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because **they were like sheep without a shepherd**. And he began to teach them many things.
 - Because of misunderstanding, traditions, false teaching

Why study the sermon on the mount?

- Isaiah 56:1-2: Thus says Jehovah: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”



Why study the sermon on the mount?

- Jeremiah 23:5-6: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: Jehovah is our righteousness.”



Why study the sermon on the mount?

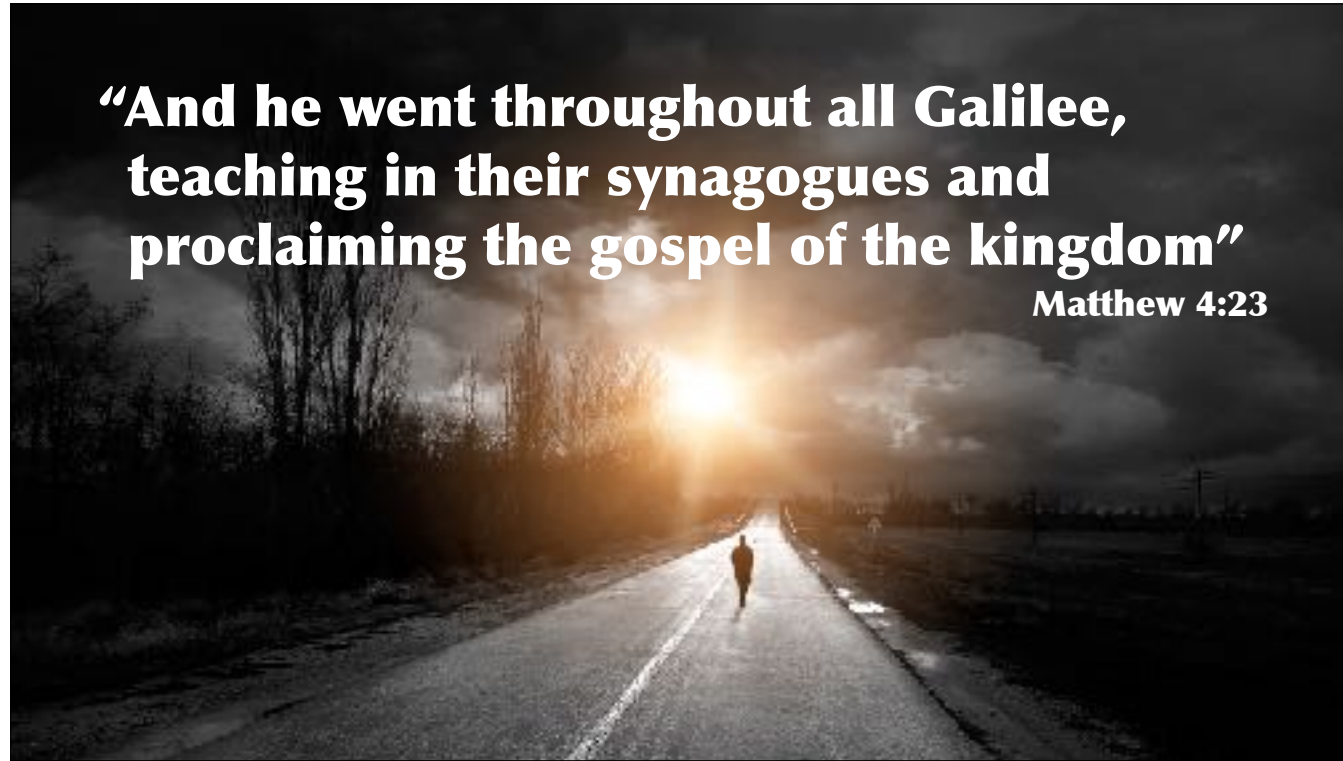
- Jeremiah 33:14-16 (ESV) 14 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: Jehovah is our righteousness.’



- Matthew 4:17: From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**“And he went throughout all Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues and
proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom”**

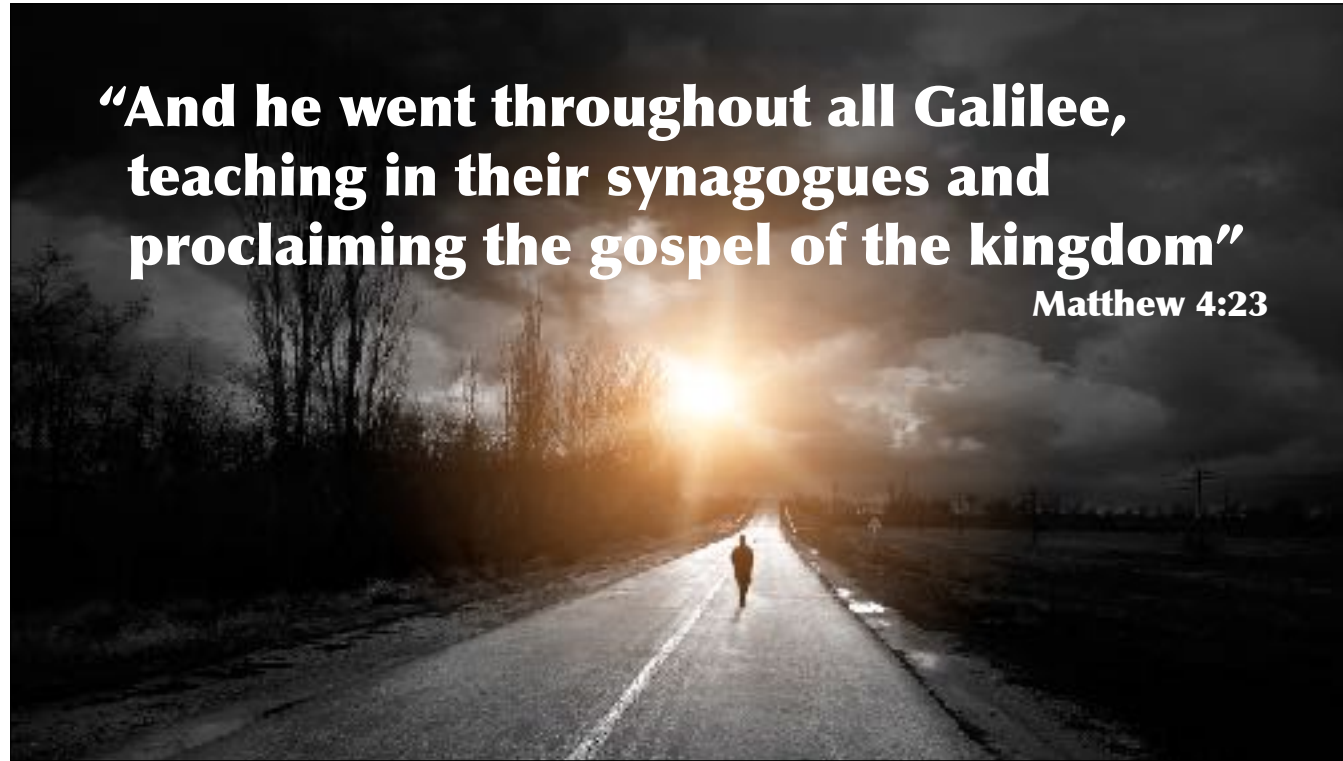
Matthew 4:23



- Matthew 4:23: And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

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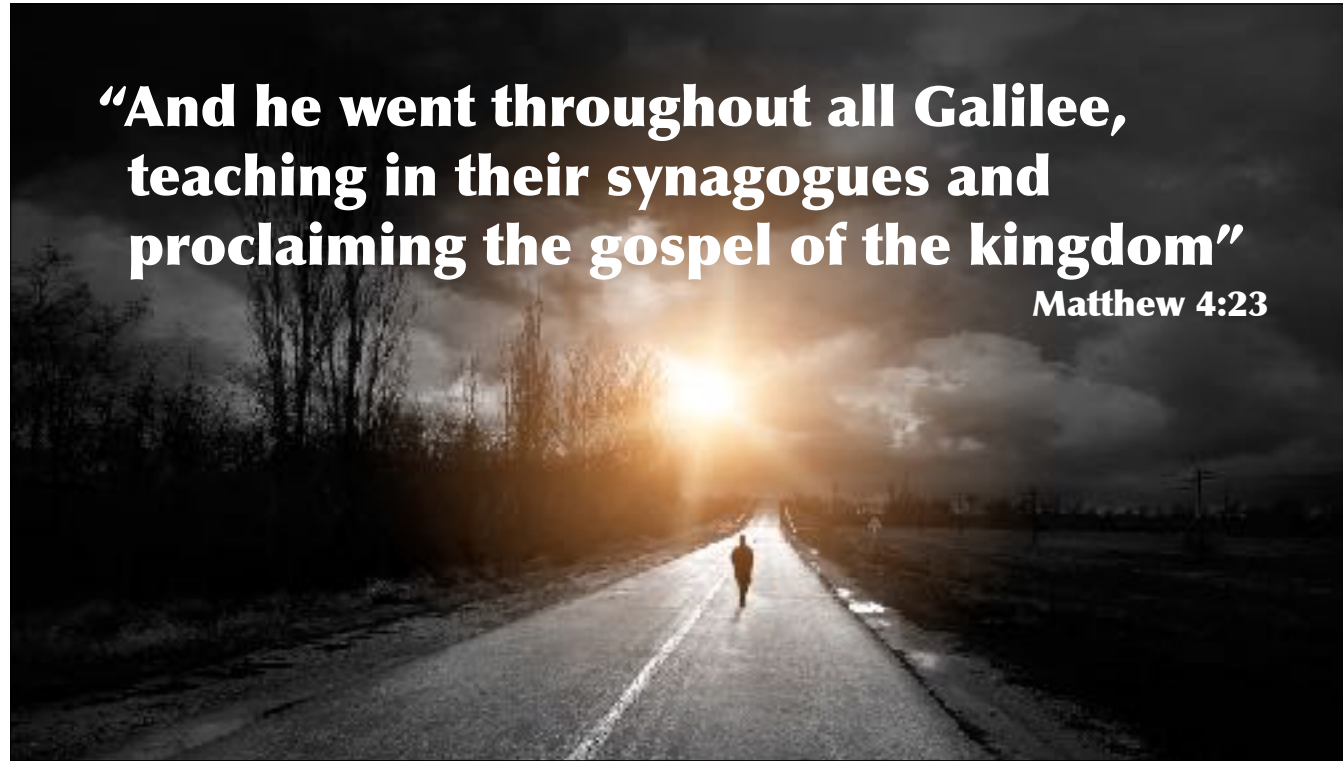
Matthew 4:23



- Romans 1:16-17 (ESV) 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

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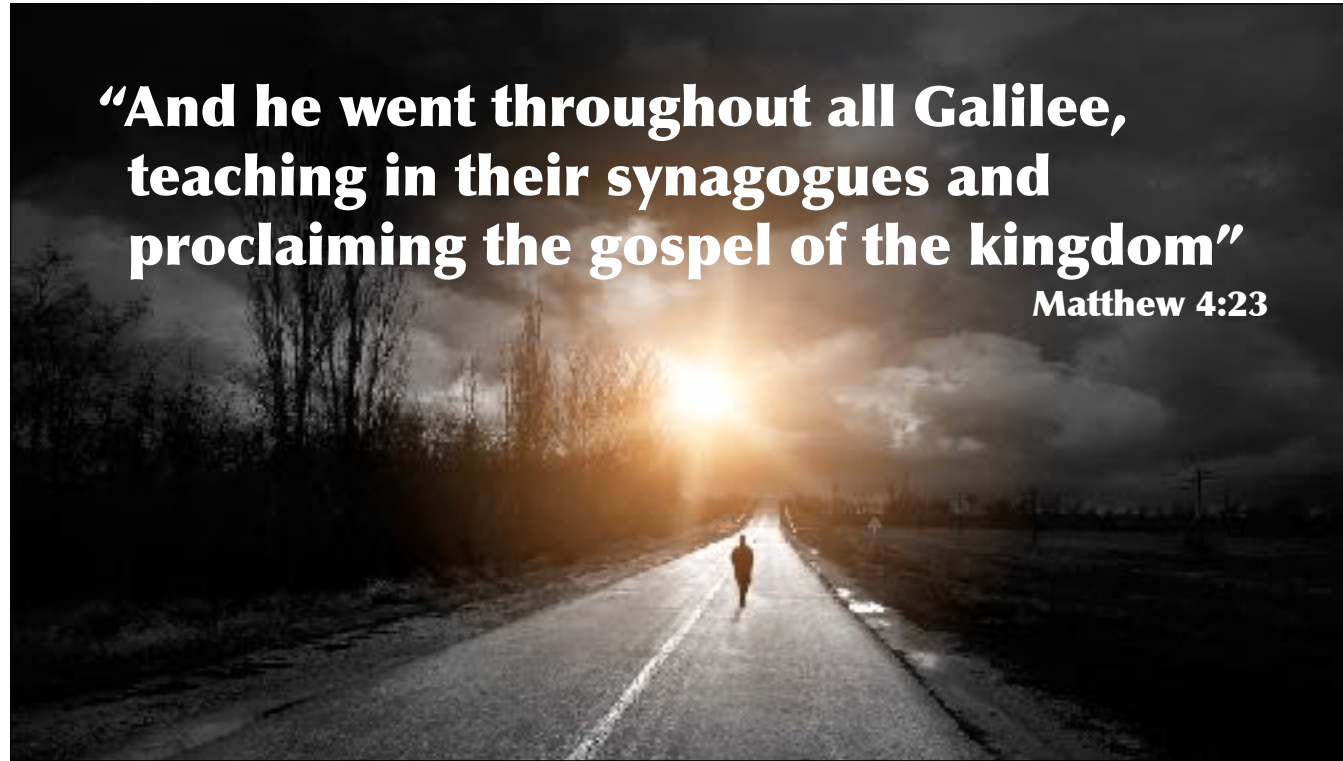
Matthew 4:23



- In this lesson, Jesus is trying to help the people understand what God had always intended for them.
 - But they had to repent... turn away from what they had “always known” and their traditional understandings as they had learned from MEN.
 - Good NEWS!
 - John 10:10: I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

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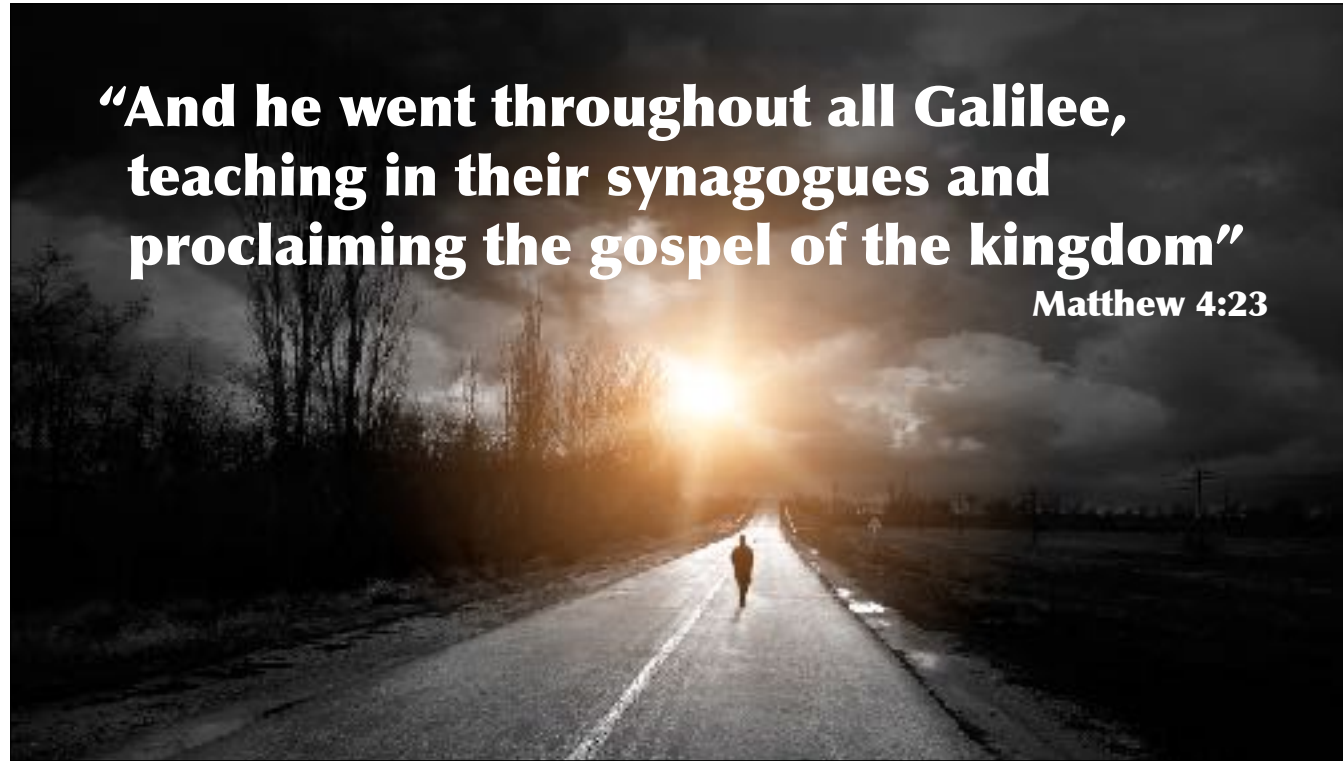
Matthew 4:23



- Kingdom of Heaven!
 - Matthew 13:44-46: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

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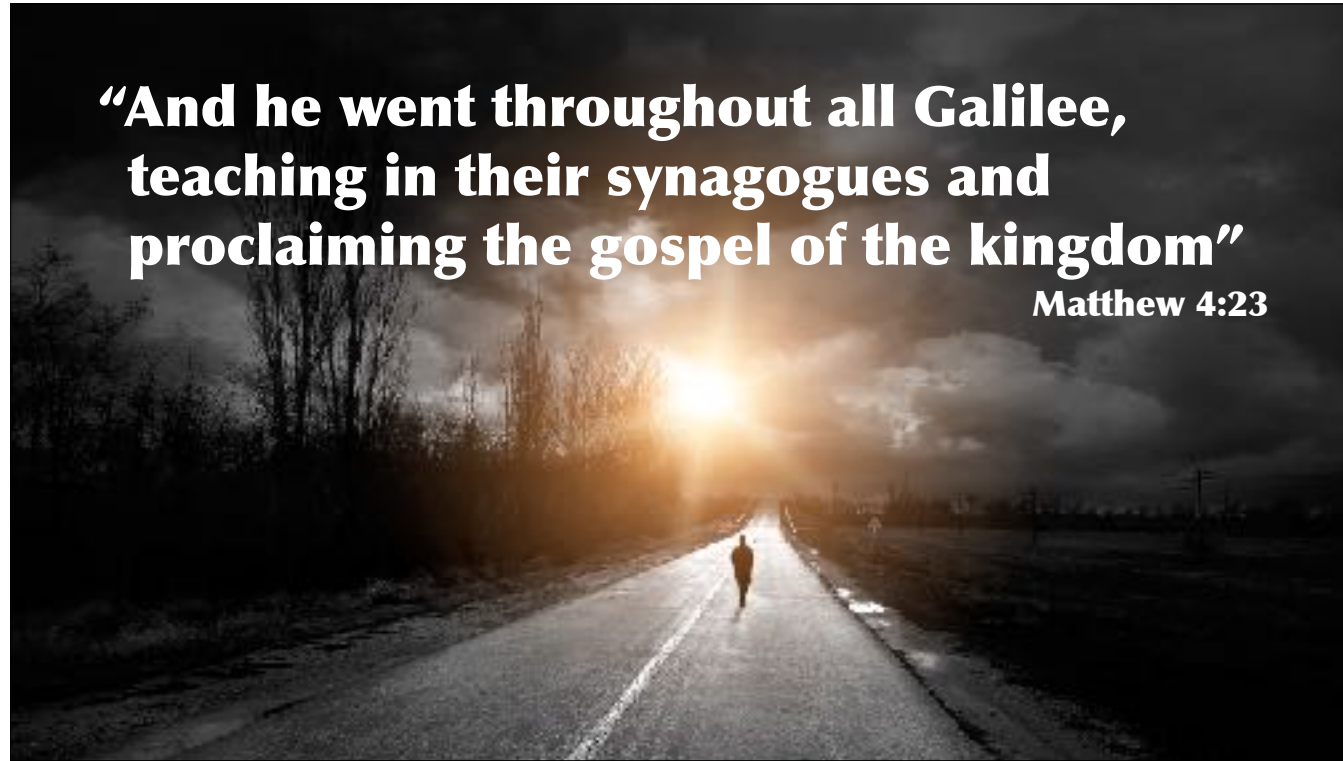
Matthew 4:23



- But what does that mean?
 - John 18:36: Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

**“And he went throughout all Galilee,
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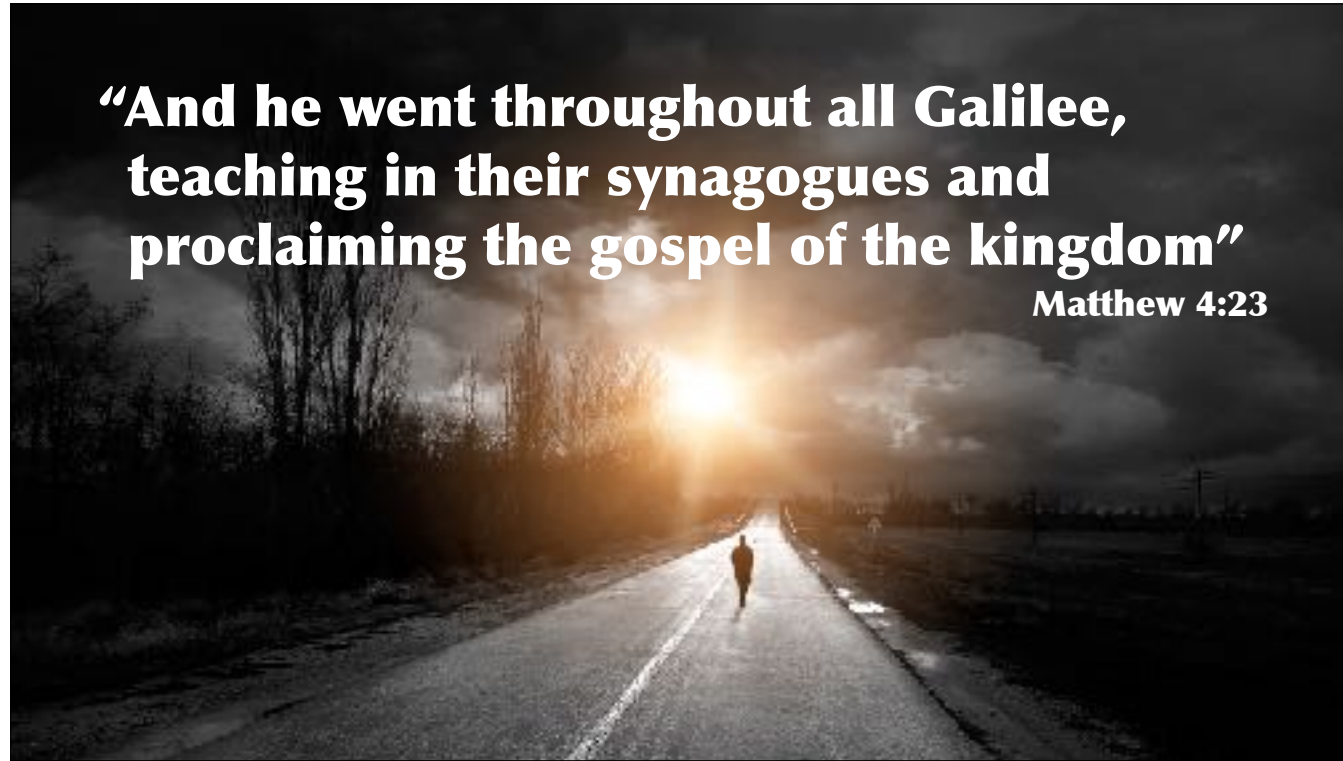
Matthew 4:23



- John 3:3: Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- John 3:5: Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- Romans 14:17: For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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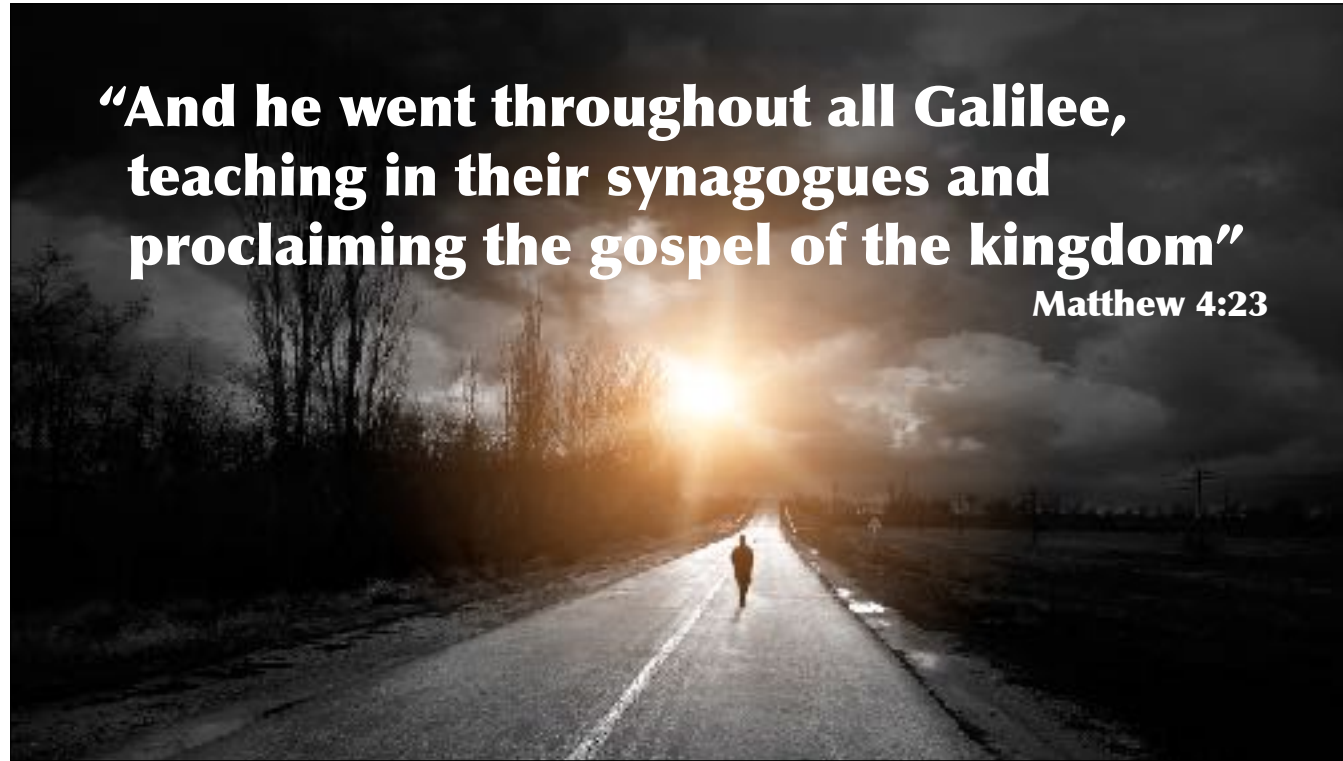
Matthew 4:23



- Expectations are that we will be different from the world.
 - Excelling all others
 - Some Jews prayed, gave, fasted to be seen of men... we are to do these things before God. (Matthew 6)
 - Some sinners love those who love them, and do good ... we are to love our enemies. (Luke 6:32-36)

**“And he went throughout all Galilee,
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Matthew 4:23



- Sermon on the Mount does not just give us a new law to follow: describes a new life
 - This is not saying... live like this and you'll be a Christian.
 - Rather saying ... Because you are a Christian, live like this.



- Overview of the Sermon on the Mount
 - Get the big picture before we dive into details
 - Like a puzzle... use picture on box to help us piece together
 - Otherwise easy to misinterpret.



- Righteousness in the Kingdom
 - My understanding...



- Exceeding Righteousness (5:3-20)
 - The character of the Christian — what it means to be righteous (3-12)
 - The affect of the Christian on the World (13-16)
 - Righteousness and Law (17-20)



Righteousness in the Kingdom

- **Exceeding Righteousness (5:3-20)**
- **Mature Righteousness (5:21-48)**

- Mature Righteousness (5:21-48)
 - Law, Sin and Righteousness
 - Anger, Lust, Divorce, Oaths, Justice, Enemies



Righteousness in the Kingdom

- **Exceeding Righteousness (5:3-20)**
- **Mature Righteousness (5:21-48)**
- **Practicing Righteousness (6:1-7:12)**

- Practicing Righteousness (6:1-7:12)
 - Righteousness before God and man in my life
 - Prayer, Giving, Fasting
 - Treasure
 - Anxiety
 - Judging



Righteousness in the Kingdom

- **Exceeding Righteousness (5:3-20)**
- **Mature Righteousness (5:21-48)**
- **Practicing Righteousness (6:1-7:12)**
- **Healthy Righteousness (7:13-27)**

- Healthy Righteousness (7:13-27)
 - The Way of Righteousness
 - Healthy Trees Bear Good Fruit
 - Wise Men Do Righteousness



- Focus, then, is on the king of righteousness in a kingdom of righteousness with citizens who are righteous.
- Righteousness Practically and Clearly Defined so that we can live as Christians.
- Not just for some of us, but all of us.



Righteousness in the Kingdom

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- **Healthy Righteousness (7:13-27)**

- Our struggle with Righteousness
 - Romans 10:3-4 (ESV) 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.



➤ **Faith**

Righteousness in the Kingdom

- **Exceeding Righteousness (5:3-20)**
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- **Practicing Righteousness (6:1-7:12)**
- **Healthy Righteousness (7:13-27)**

- Requires faith, like Abraham
 - Genesis 15:6: And he believed Jehovah, and he counted it to him as righteousness.
 - Hebrews 11:8: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.



➤ Faith
➤ Repentance

Righteousness in the Kingdom

- Exceeding Righteousness (5:3-20)
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- Practicing Righteousness (6:1-7:12)
- Healthy Righteousness (7:13-27)

- Clearly change is demanded ... repentance
 - Isaiah 1:27: Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.
 - Hosea 10:12: Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek Jehovah, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

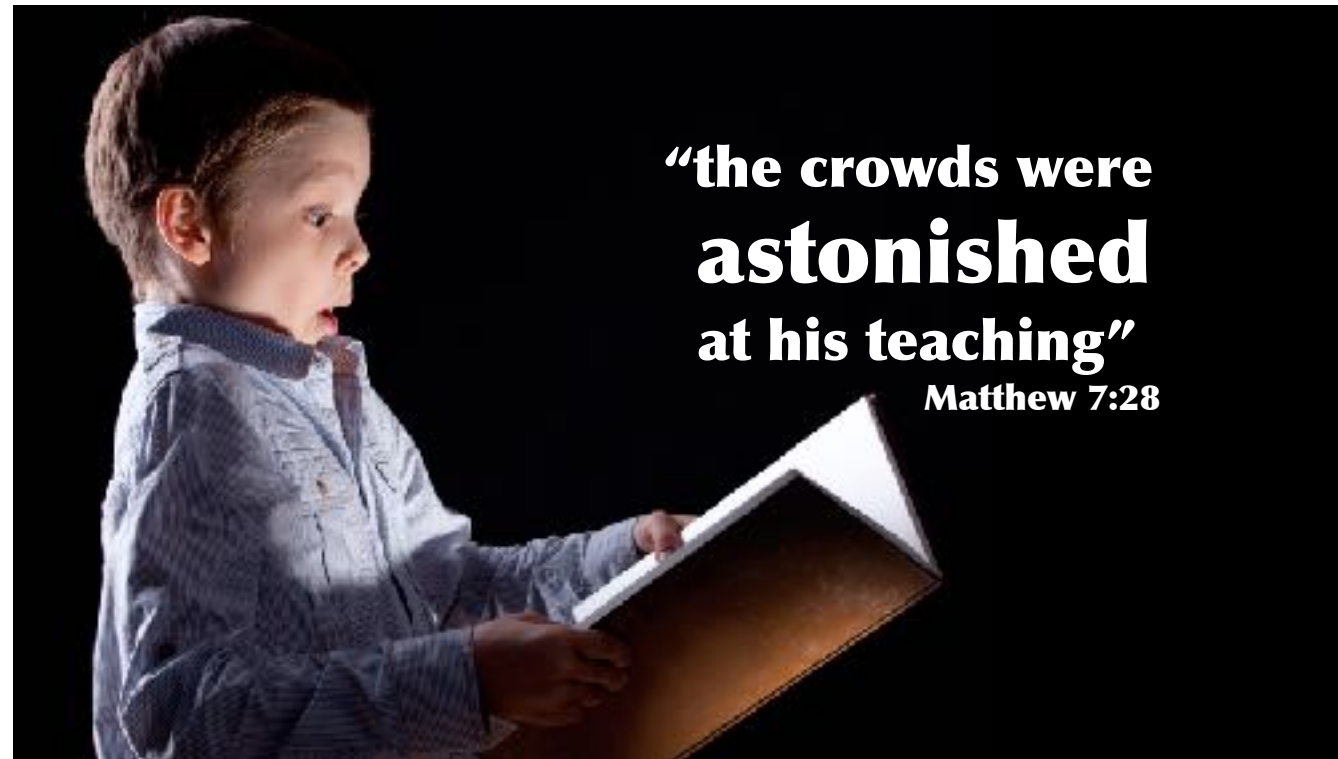


Righteousness in the Kingdom

- Exceeding Righteousness (5:3-20)
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- Practicing Righteousness (6:1-7:12)
- Healthy Righteousness (7:13-27)

- Faith
- Repentance
- Living Daily
in the presence of God

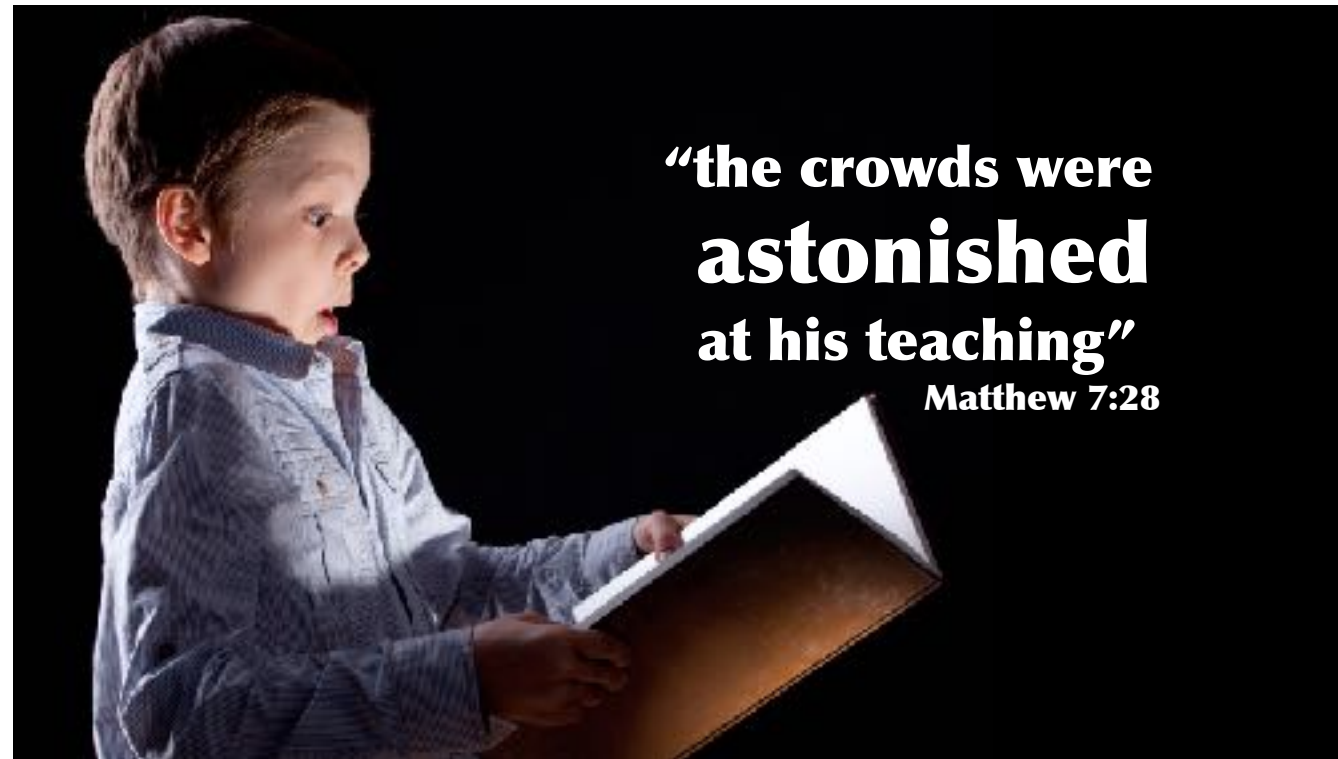
- Live Daily in the presence of God
 - Trusting in God
 - Obeying God:



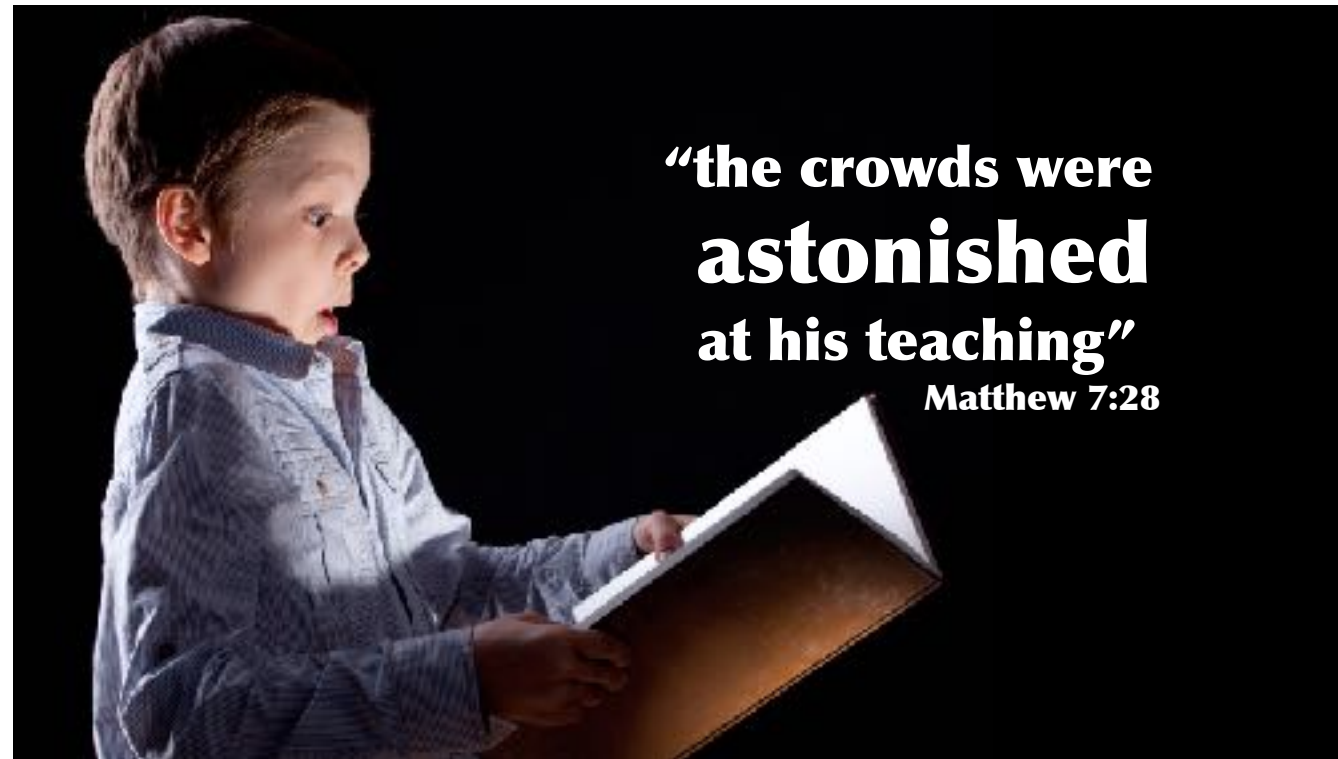
**“the crowds were
astonished
at his teaching”**

Matthew 7:28

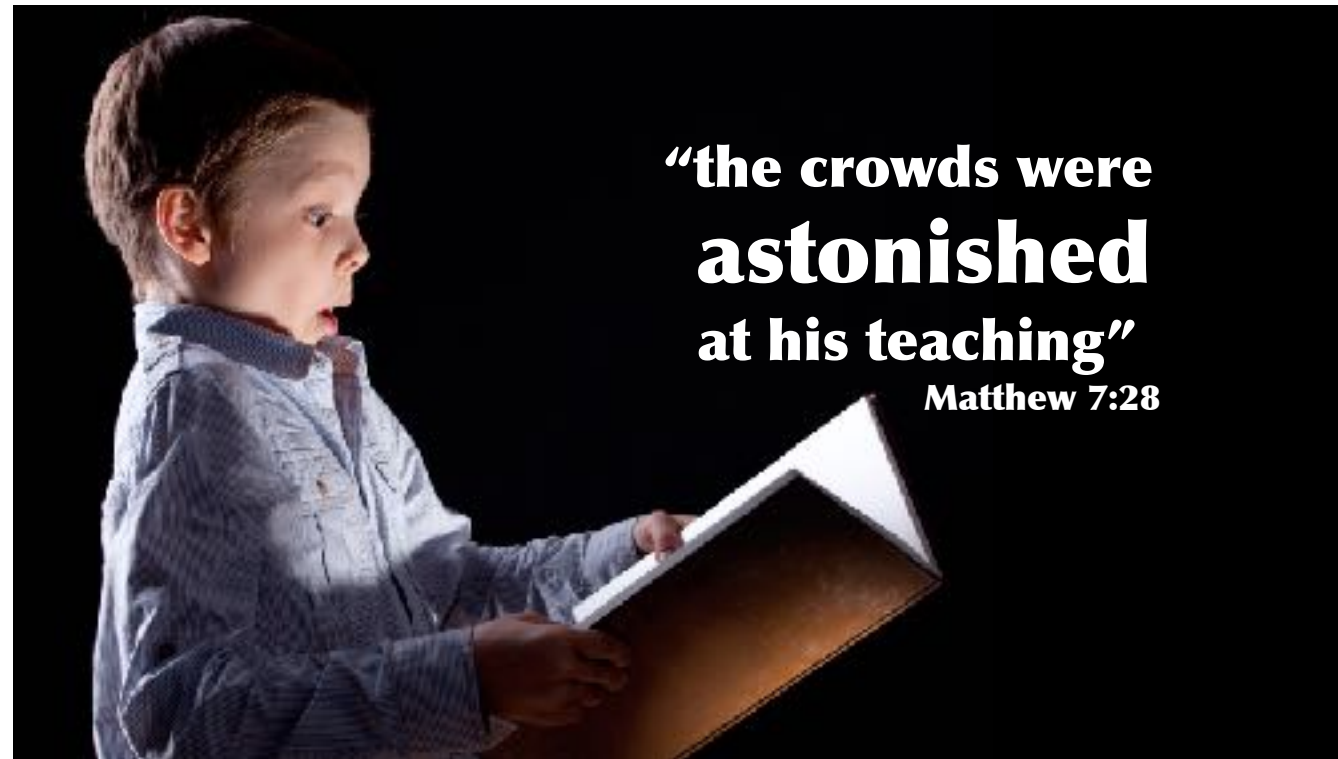
- Proper reaction to the sermon
 - Proper focus — Jesus
 - not on sermon, but on Jesus!
 - We should turn to look at Him who brought these words of wisdom and righteousness.



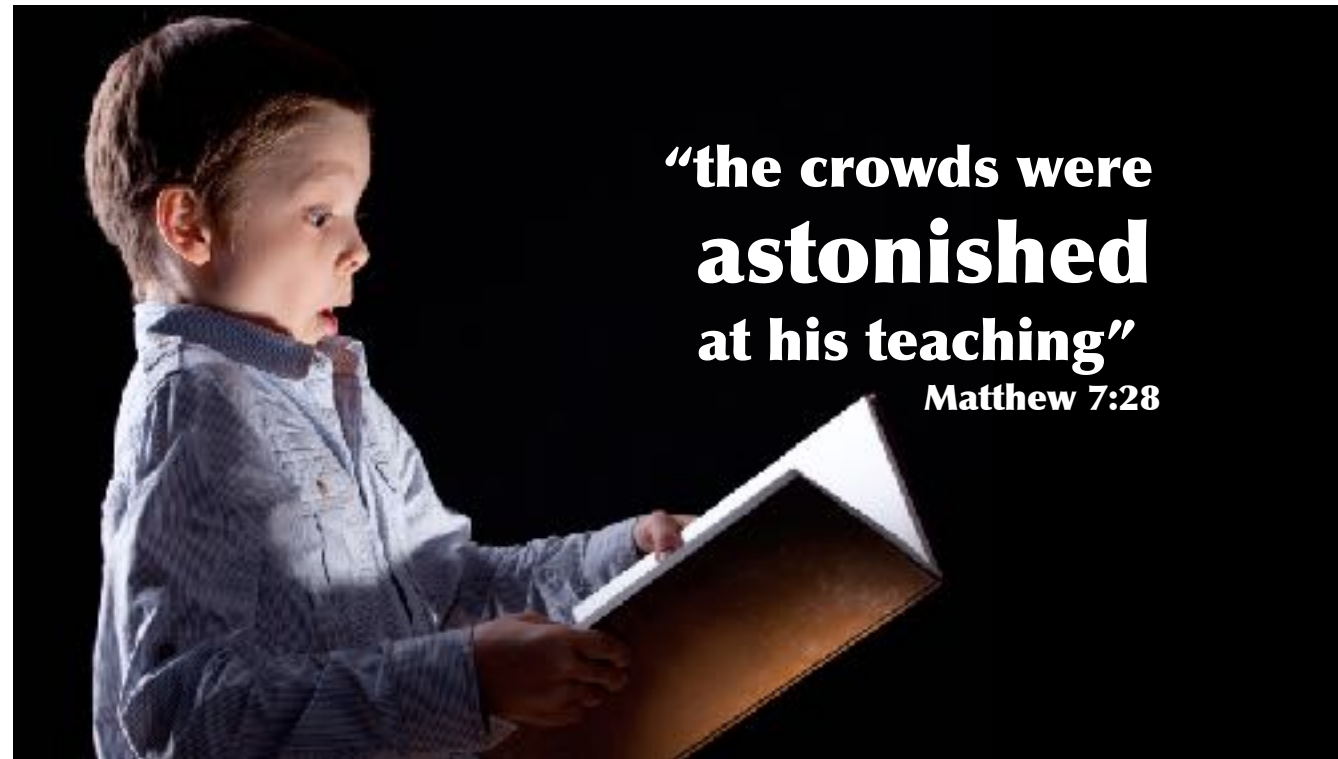
- Matthew 5:11: "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely **on my account**."
- Matthew 5:17: "Do not think that **I have come** to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I have not come** to abolish them but to fulfill them."



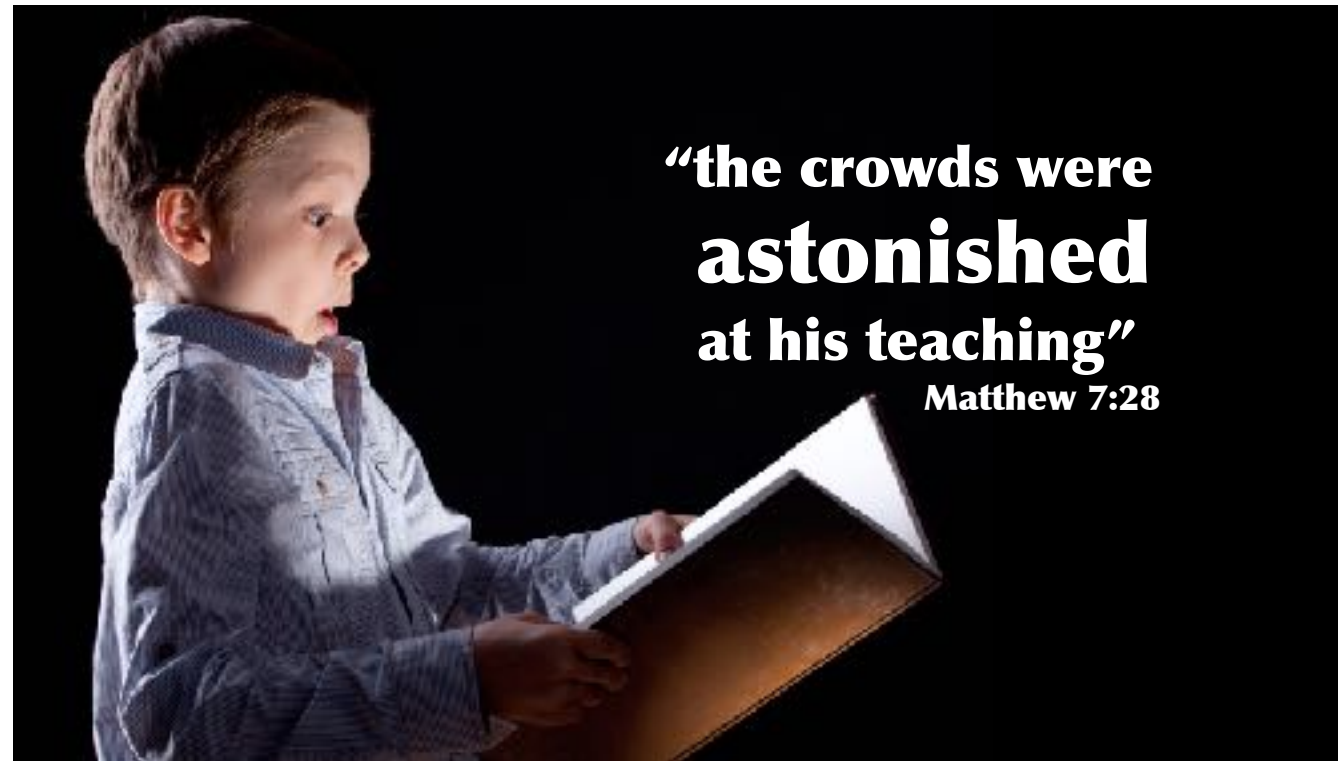
- Matthew 7:21-23: “Not everyone who says to **me**, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to **me**, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy **in your name**, and cast out demons **in your name**, and do many mighty works **in your name**?’ 23 And then **will I declare** to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from me**, you workers of lawlessness.’



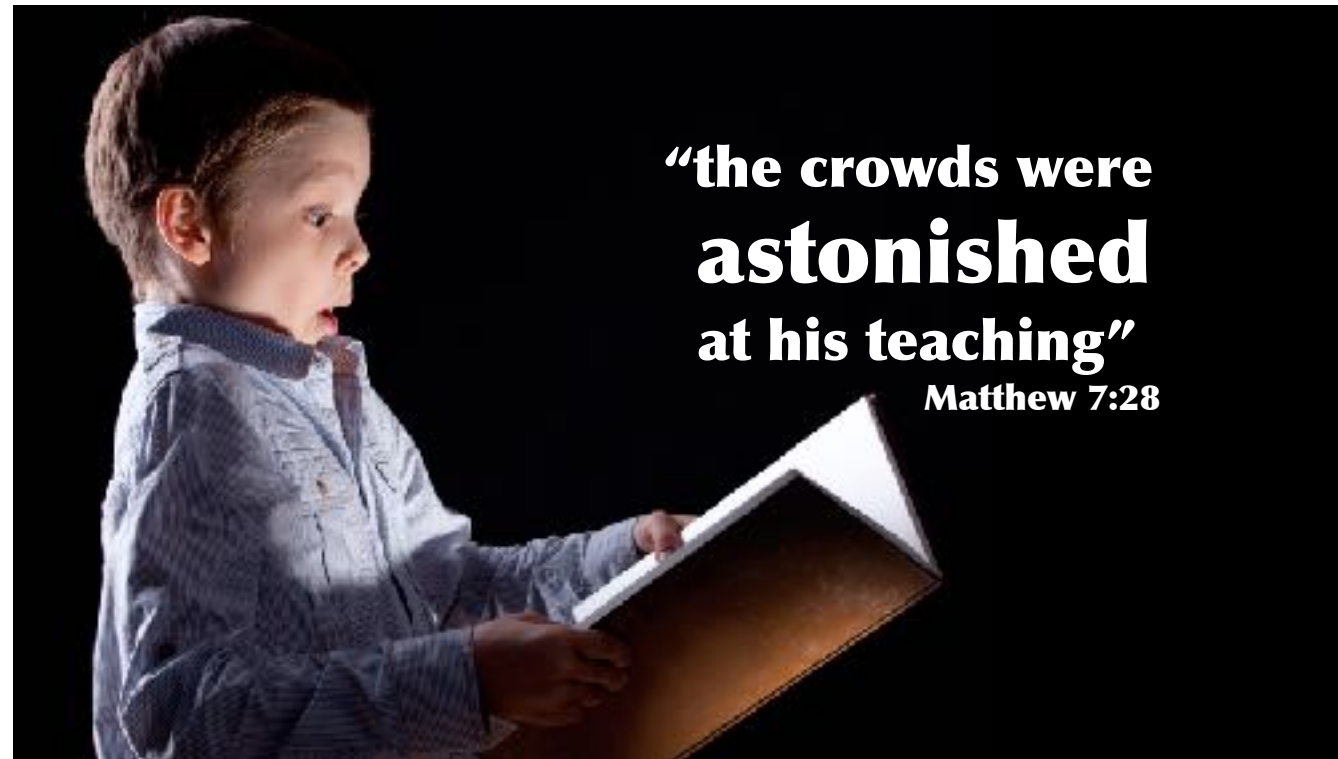
- One who had authority
 - Source of this is God, not man!
- Not as scribes
 - quoted "experts"



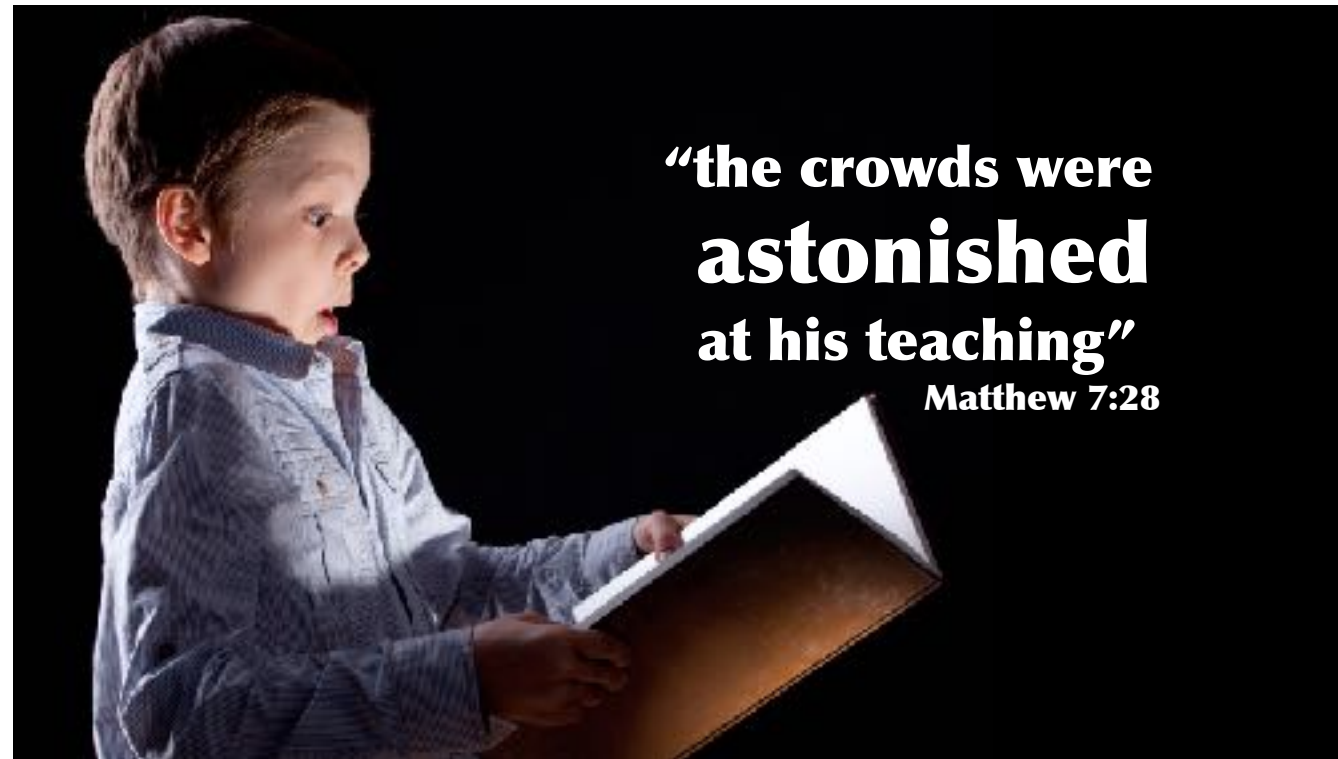
- Jesus — confidence, certainty
 - Matthew 5:2: And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
 - Matthew 5:22: But I say to you (26, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44; 6:2, 5, 16, 25)
 - corrected the misunderstandings of the scribes



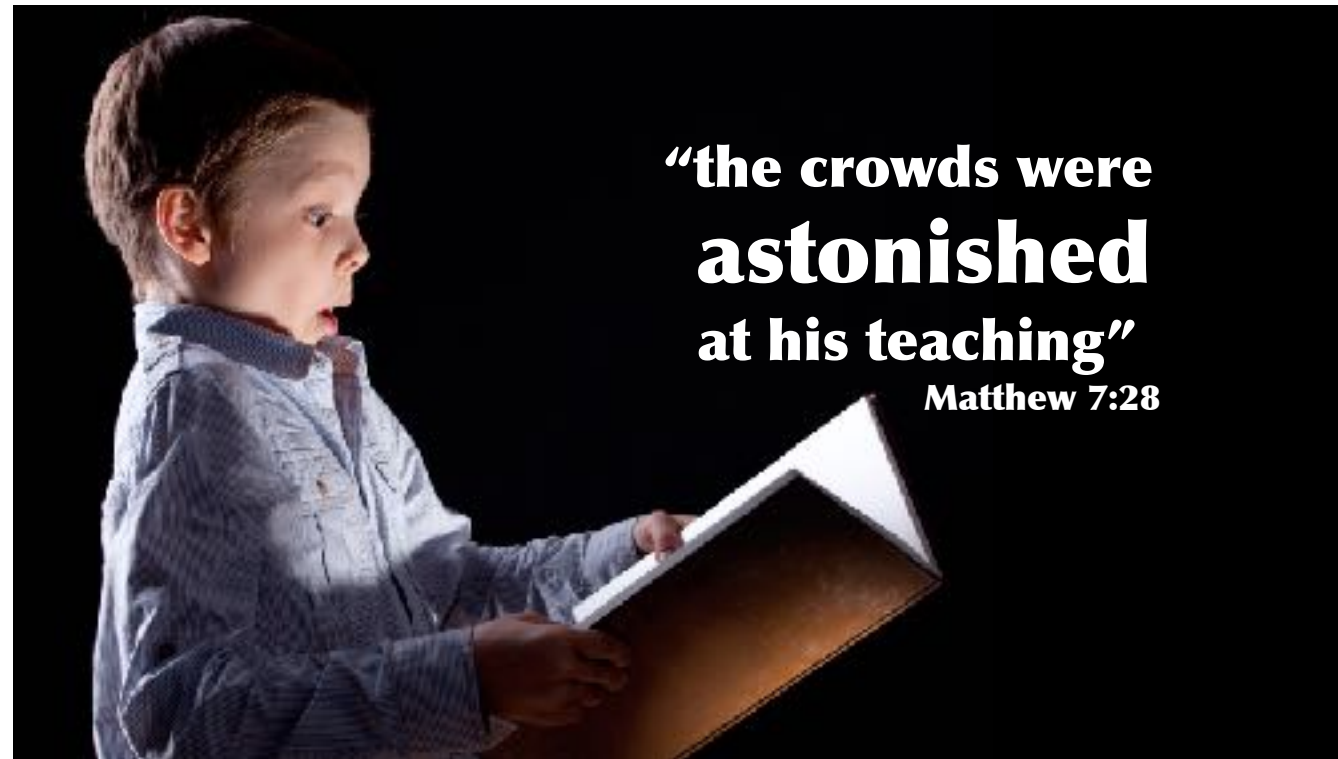
- Matthew 7:24: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them



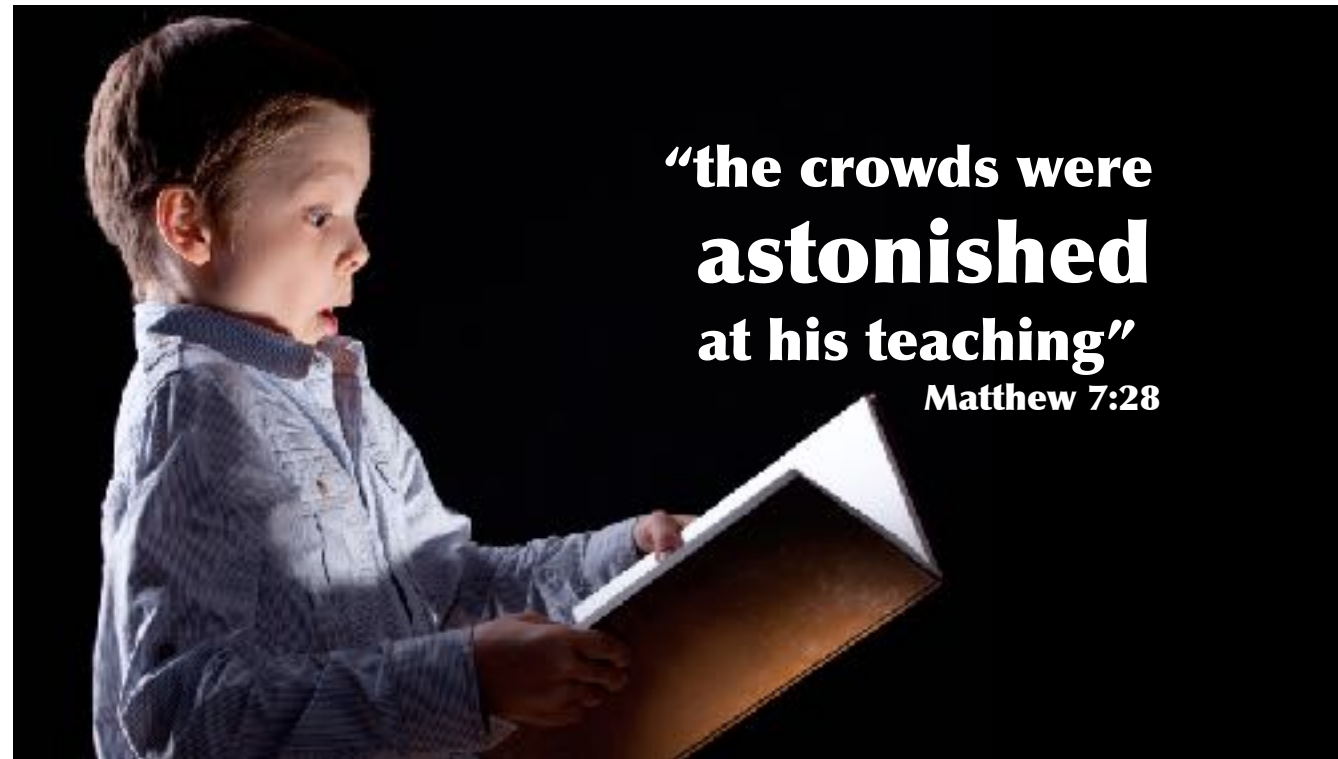
- Can we do them?
 - standards are too high, impossible
 - —> tempted to dismiss them as unreal for our lives.



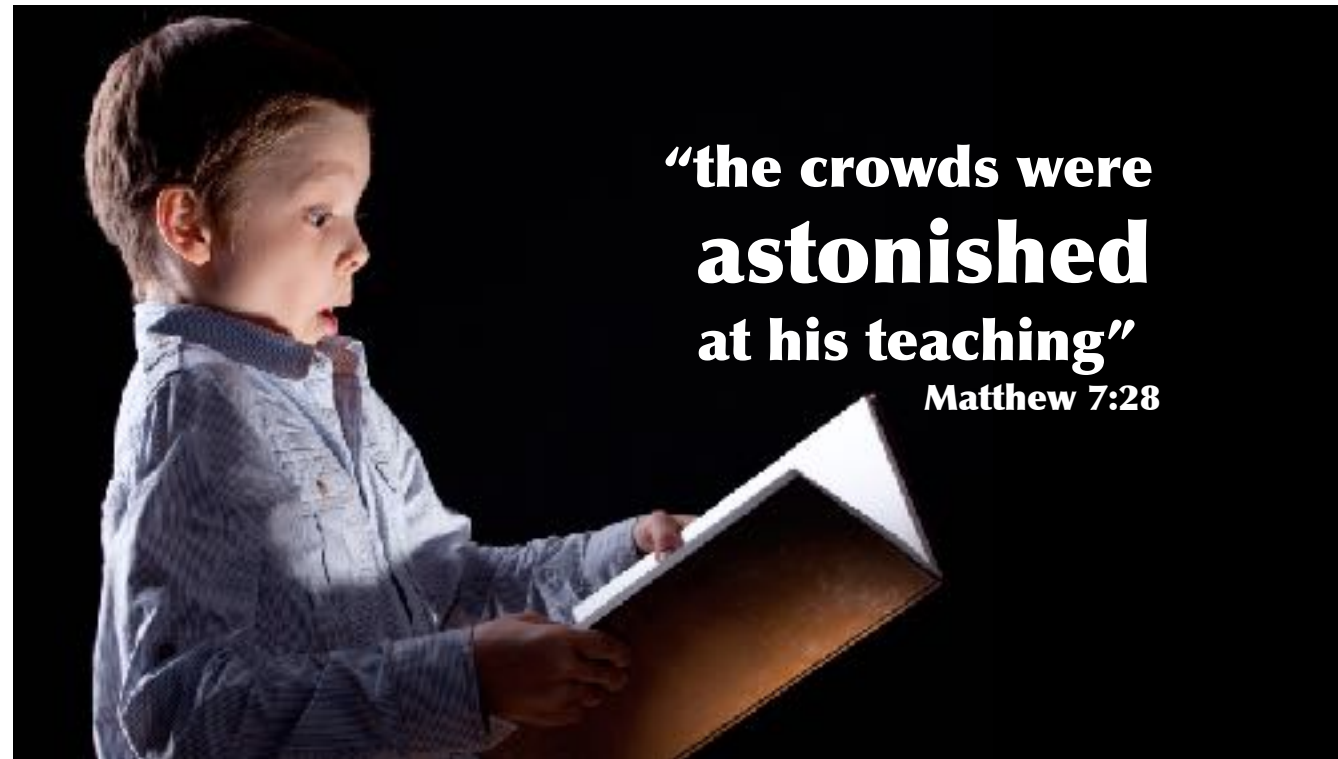
- Deuteronomy 30:11-14: “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 14 But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.



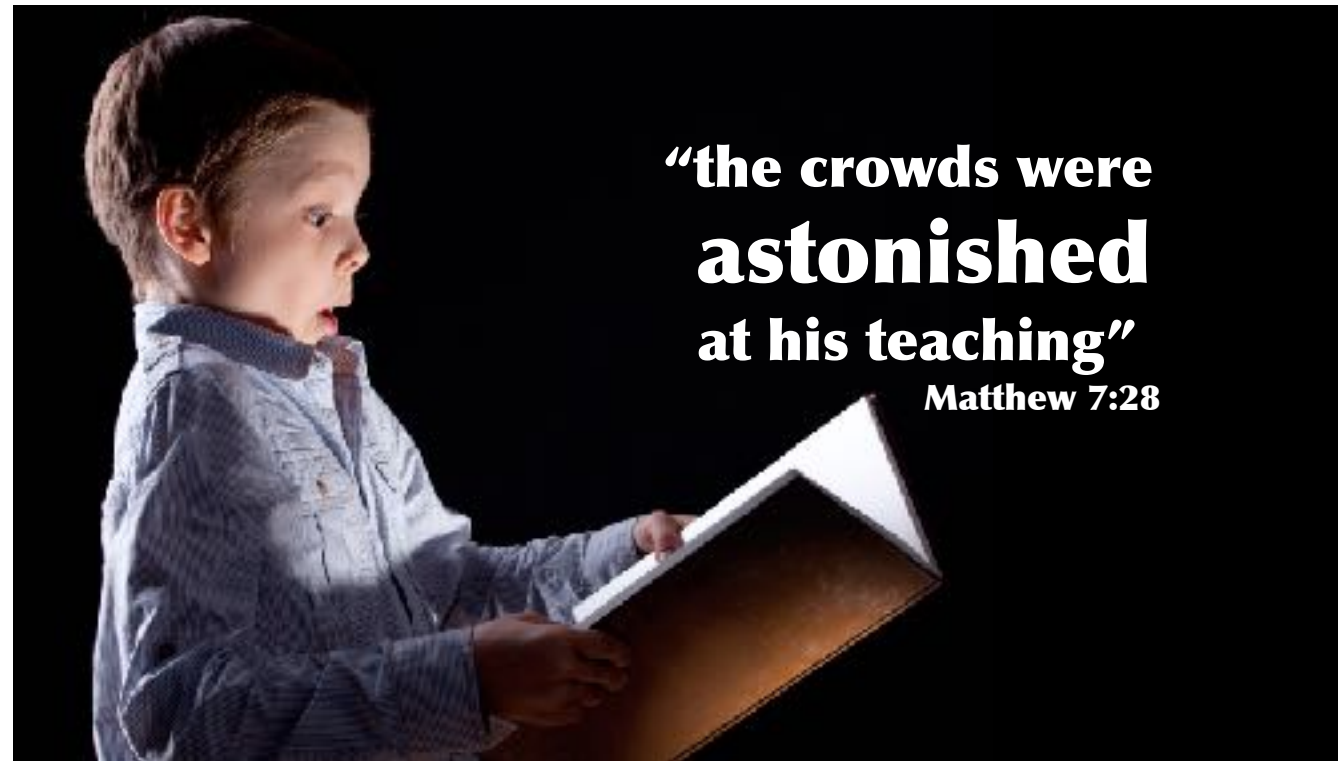
- Fail to realize that we are called to a high standard... higher than the world!
 - Ephesians 4:13: until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,



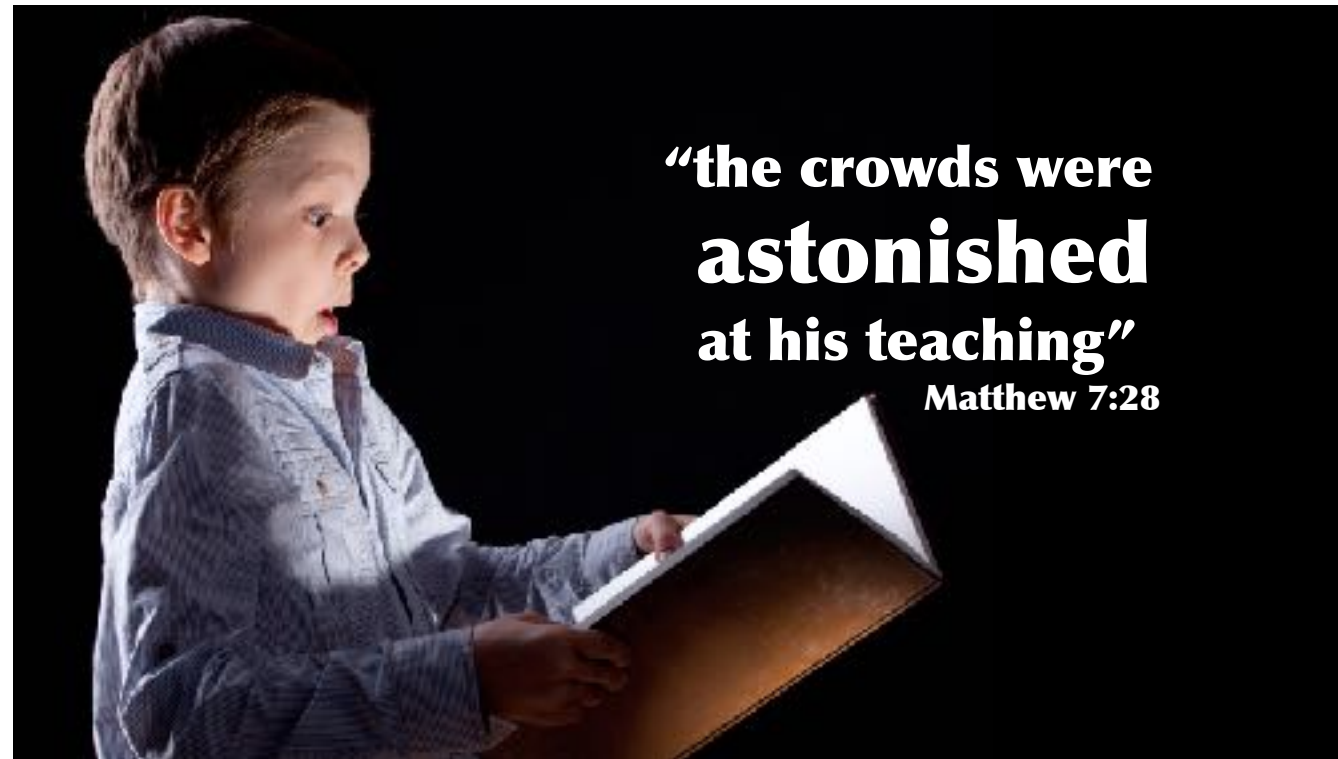
- Have the help of God’s Spirit
 - Romans 8:14: For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
 - Galatians 3:3: Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?



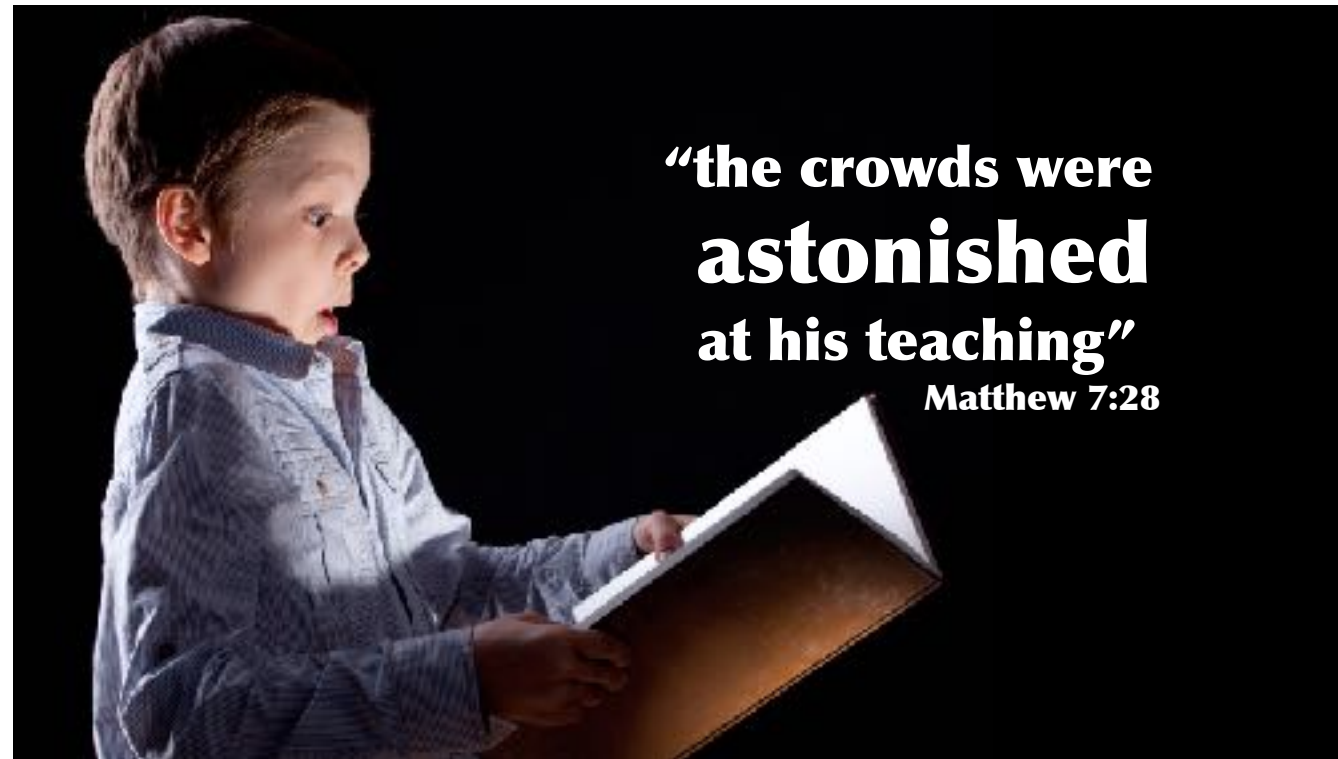
- Only the New Man
 - Romans 6:4: We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.



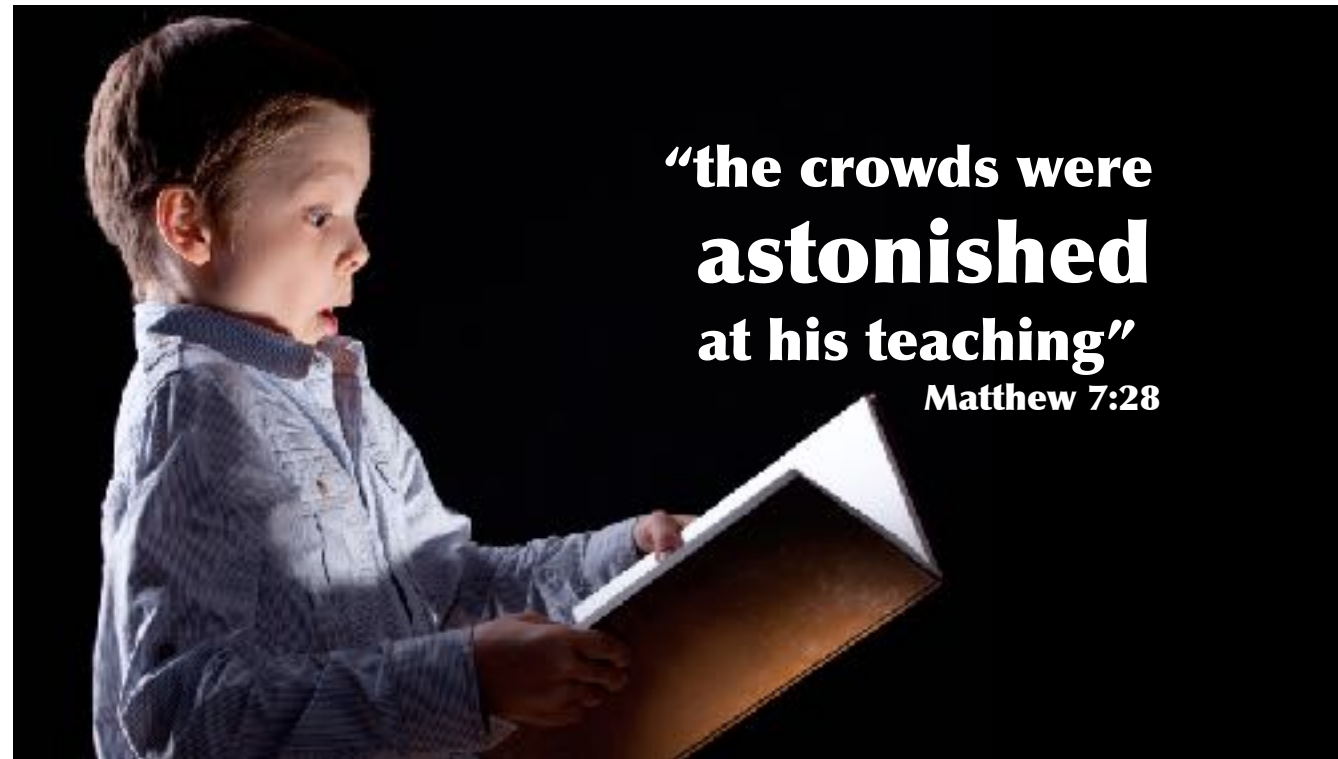
- Romans 6:13: Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.



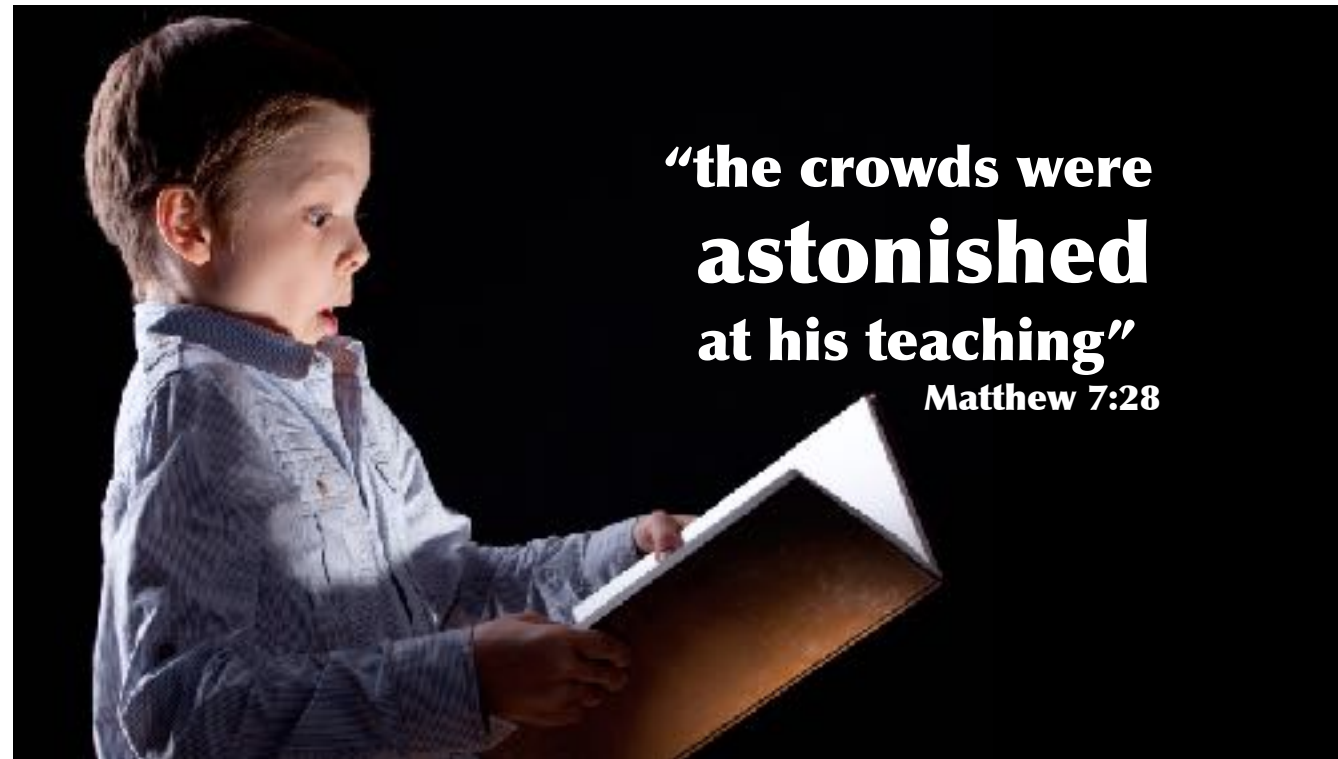
- How to Understand this Sermon so that we are ASTONISHED!
 - This is not a law code.
 - This is how you live because of who you are



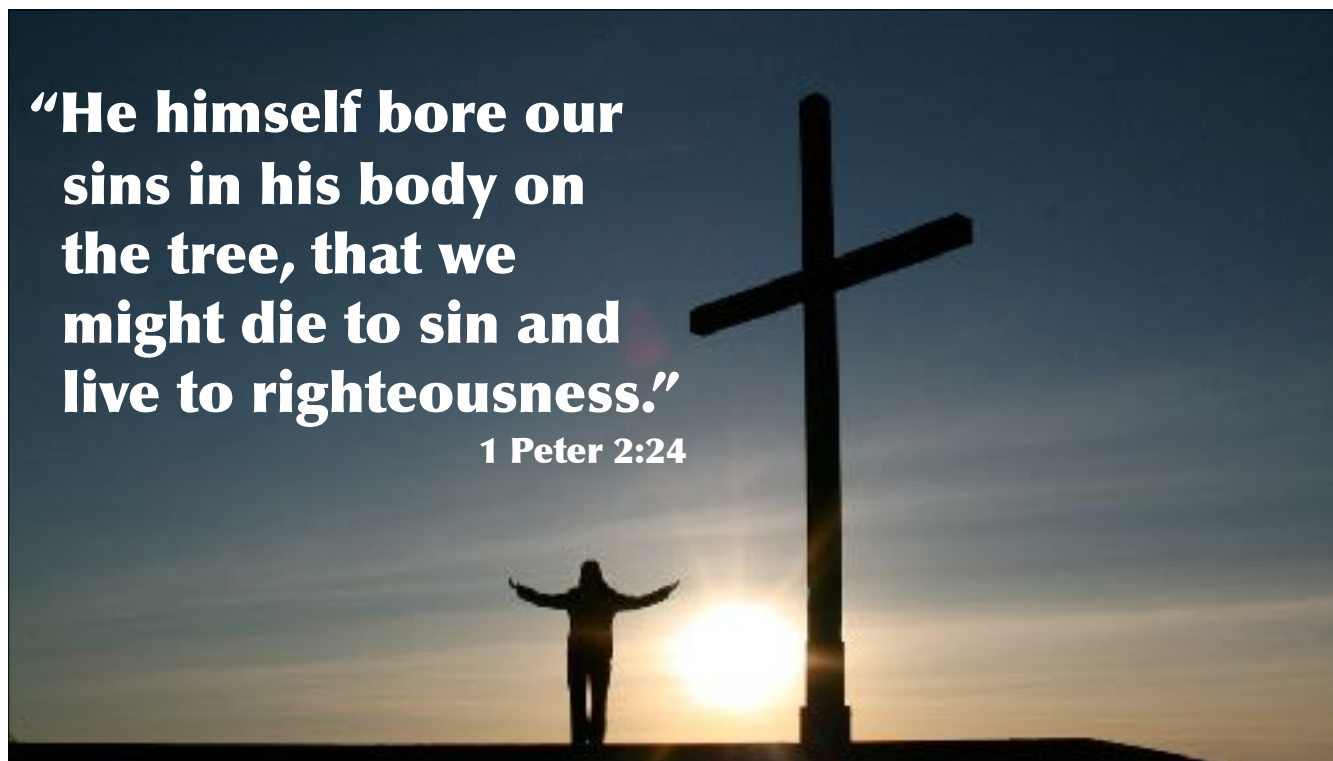
- Understanding the Whole
 - Too often we want to just take bits of the lesson, pull them out and use them.
 - Need to understand the whole, how it fits together: Beauty of the whole



- Music: Vivaldi, Four Seasons
 - play accurately, make no mistakes
 - played notes, but play with spirit, feeling, emotion?
 - hitting right notes in right time, not the same as the expression intended by Vivaldi
 - Great musician always follows rules and timing, what makes Great?
 - Expression of the whole, the Spirit and flow



- Warnings...
 - If arguing: wrong interpretation, wrong attitude
 - If understanding seems ridiculous, then most likely our understanding is incorrect
 - If think "impossible": understanding wrong; little faith; unwilling to obey
- Read it this week.



**“He himself bore our
sins in his body on
the tree, that we
might die to sin and
live to righteousness.”**

1 Peter 2:24

- 1 Peter 2:24-25 (ESV) 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
- Psalm 23:3: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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Matthew 5-7

Synopsis: An overview of the sermon on the mount, reminding us that it is a lesson about Jesus, and righteousness and that we should live by righteousness.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."