

TEACH

(διδασκο = 'thithasko')

To teach, to impart instruction, to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, to be a teacher, to conduct one's self as a teacher, to instil doctrine into one, to explain or expound on something.

Matthew 5:2, “*Then He opened His mouth and taught them saying...*” The Greek word for “teach” implies a '*repetitive, on-going process*'. Notice, the scripture says Jesus opened His mouth and began to *teach* them, it does not say He began talking to them. Teaching in this context takes commitment by the teacher as it is his responsibility to see it through. Here, the new disciples were novices and therefore they needed *teaching*. Consequently, they could not be considered disciples until they had been fully equipped by Jesus to make teachers of others.

With this in mind, Jesus starts teaching The Beatitudes for the primary benefit of His chosen few. In fact, it is not until the seventh chapter that the crowds find Him and we see a distinct change in the direction and style of His teaching.

There is another aspect of this kind of teaching, and it can be found in Matthew 7:29 and **Mark 1:22**, “*And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*”

When a teacher imparts instruction to his pupils he must do it from a position of authority. The Lord Jesus did not go about to establish what He taught by the authority of the religious establishment of His time, but he spoke as from Himself, as one sent of God. His authority was intrinsic and independent of man; and this was what the people had not observed in others, and therefore, they were in awe of it.

The nature of the Lord's teaching was very different. They had not been accustomed to getting this kind of instruction. At best, they were being taught the doctrine of the Law of Moses, and sometimes only the traditions of the Synagogue elders, or an allegorical and traditional sense of the Scriptures. For this reason, they were totally amazed at the manner of Jesus' preaching - that was with so much gracefulness, gravity, and majesty - and was delivered with so much evidence and divine power.