

Verse 14

Despite all the anger and hatred placed on Him by the Jews, Jesus boldly enters the temple in the middle of the feast and begins to teach. It is His words that have caused such hatred of Him up until this point and His words that He will share here in the temple will only further accelerate their anger toward Him. His words are Spirit and Life, but the ungodly they are death and cause fury.

Verse 15

It is not recorded that Jesus had studied under any rabbi. The Jews were aware that He has not had any formal instruction or higher studies of leaning in things regarding the scriptures and the Law. This brought intrigue to those who heard Him speak as to how He could speak with such authority, wisdom, and knowledge without formal learning or training.

One of the most known teachers of the time was a rabbi named Gamaliel. He was also a member and leader within the Sanhedrin. He was the grandson of the famous rabbi Hillel who held a more lax and lenient interpretation of the Law. Paul was a student of Gamaliel. To be taught by a famous and prestigious carried clout and honor. The same is true in today's society in regards to the prestige of receiving higher education from more prestigious institutions such as the Ivy League schools. The Pharisees would highlight and gloat in the fact that they were taught by Gamaliel and other well know rabbis and looked down on those who had what they deemed inferior leaning. They would question where Jesus got such knowledge. His teaching and knowledge came from His Father in Heaven. His teaching did not come from a mortal man, but from the eternal God who had sent Him to exegesato (exegete) Him.

Verses on Gamaliel

- Acts 5:33-42
- Acts 22:1-3

Jesus amazed the people by His knowledge in this same temple when he was 12 years old.

- Luke 2:41-47 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast; ⁴³and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, ⁴⁴but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. ⁴⁵When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. ⁴⁶Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

Verses 16-17

Jesus's teaching is not His but is from the Father who sent Him. Jesus was sent by the Father to explain Him and speak on His behalf. The Father sent Jesus and placed His seal upon Him (John 6:27).

- John 12:49-50 For I did not speak ^[a]on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

Verse 18

Jesus did not come speaking on His own authority, but by the authority of God. The Pharisees were speaking not of the things of God or of truth, but rather were speaking for their own glory.

Verse 19

The Law was given to them as an advantage and blessing in showing them the will and commands of God to please Him. However, the Law when not followed perfectly brings about condemnation. They did not follow the Law perfectly as none does, but still they were hypocritically accusing Jesus of breaking the Law for which they want to kill Him.

- **Romans 2:17-24** But if you bear the name “Jew” and rely ^[a]upon the Law and boast in God, ¹⁸and know *His* will and ^[a]approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, ¹⁹and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰a ^[a]corrector of the foolish, a teacher of ^[s]the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, ²¹you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who ^[a]preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? ²²You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who boast ^[a]in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? ²⁴For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.
- **Romans 3:19-20** Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are ^[a]under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰because by the works ^[i]of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for ^[i]through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

Verse 20

The crowds begin to accuse Jesus of being demon possessed because He was saying that people want to kill Him. There are some who do not believe the Jews want to kill Him since He is speaking openly in the temple, and no one is seizing Him.

Verse 21

Jesus is referring back to His healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda in **John 5**. They accused Him then of breaking the Law by healing and working on the Sabbath which they believed was reserved for God alone. He tells them that His Father is working until now and that He Himself is working. This results in the Jews wanting to kill Him not only because they thought He was breaking the Sabbath but making Himself equal to God (**John 5:1-18**).

Verses 22-24

Jesus will now begin to call out their hypocrisy and uneven scales of judgment. They claimed to follow Moses and the law including that which regards circumcision. However, circumcision came before Moses as it began with Abraham in **Genesis 17**. Circumcision was implemented into the Mosaic Law at a later time. The Law required gave instruction in circumcision in **Leviticus 12:3**. Circumcision was to be performed on the 8th day after birth to which Jesus held to (**Luke 2:21-22**). If the 8th day fell on a Sabbath, circumcision was to be performed by these same Pharisees who were complaining about Jesus working and healing someone on the Sabbath. The Pharisees had no problem performing a circumcision and the cleansing ritual on the Sabbath but had contempt and judgment for Christ because He made an entire man well on the Sabbath.

Verses 25-27

The people are surprised that even though there is such rage, hatred, and threats toward Jesus He does not hide but in public He continues to deliver His message of truth for all to hear. There is some confusion among the people of who Jesus is. There was a common misunderstanding among the Jews that when the Messiah would come, He would come quickly and unexpectedly with no one really knowing where He was from. However, the Old Testament reveals that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2**). Since they knew where Jesus was from (Nazareth) and His parents they believed He could not be the Messiah or the Bread since from Heaven (**John 6:41-42**).

Verses 28

Jesus responds by crying out and telling them that they may know Him in the earthly sense including where He was from, etc, but they had no understanding of Him in the spiritual sense. Jesus reiterates that He did not come of Himself, but was sent by the Father and they did not know the Father. If one does not believe in and have the Son, they do not have the Father.

- **1 John 2:23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

Verse 29

Jesus knew the Father because He was from the Father and was sent by the Father. This speaks to Jesus's pre-existence before the incarnation, His eternal fellowship with the Father, His role as the Son of Man, and His mission to exegete and speak on behalf of the Father.

Verse 30

They were seeking to seize Jesus, but no one laid a hand on Him because His hour had not yet come. Those in the crowds may have thought this scene was the perfect time for His arrest, but He was operating on a Heavenly timeline. His hour for arrest would come later as shown in **John 18**.

Why do we listen to the words and teaching of Jesus? What credentials does Jesus have for us to listen to Him and believe His words? Jesus was not taught at the most prestigious biblical institutions on this earth or by the most recognized teachers of the time such as Gamaliel. Throughout His earthy ministry many tried to question Him and trip Him up in matters of the Law, but He gave the right answer always. Jesus has the highest credentials of anyone as to why we listen to His words and His teaching: He is sent from the Father and His teaching is from the Father. So, as we read the Bible and hear the truths that Christ declared let us listen and believe because we are hearing the words of the Father as they are being exegeted by the Son. He who has hears let him hear!