

Values Matter Discovery Starters

We Are Visionary

12. DO FIRST, THEN TEACH

YWAM is committed to doing first, then teaching. We believe that firsthand experience gives authority to our words. Godly character and a call from God are more important than an individual's gifts, abilities and expertise.

[Deu 4:5-8](#); [Ezr 7:10](#); [Psa 51:12-13](#); [Psa 119:17-18](#); [Pro 1:1-4](#);
[Mat 7:28-29](#); [Act 1:1-2](#); [Col 3:12-17](#); [2Ti 4:1-5](#); [2Pe 1:5-10](#)

Value 12 – Do First Then Teach: The Amazing How

Biblical Foundation:

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law (Mat 7:28-29).

Discovery Starter:

The word used to describe the crowds response to Jesus is *ekplesso*. It is translated as: amazed, astonished, or astounded. The word *ekplesso* is used twelve times in the gospels (Mat 7:28; 13:54; 19:25; 22:33; Mar 1:22; 6:2; 7:37; 10:26; 11:18; Luk 2:48; 4:32; 9:43) and in each and every instance it describes the reaction of either the crowd, the disciples, the religious leaders, or even Jesus' family, to Jesus' words and actions. What he said and did certainly evoked a strong reaction among all – they were struck with amazement.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Mat 5:1-7:27) is what amazed the crowd. The sermon contains about 2400 words, which take only about 16 minutes to read out loud. But the crowds reaction of amazement was not just because of **what** Jesus said, but **how** he said it. The **how** went far deeper than his skillful oratory or anointed delivery. It had to do with the fact that his words sounded genuine. Jesus was credible. He called people to a new way of living and he did so with "great authority" because his life matched the message. They could tell that he practiced what he preached. This is what set his teaching apart from that of their religious leaders. Jesus' words were backed up by his life. In fact, his words echoed his life. We often say, "actions speak louder than words." Well, in Jesus' case, his actions added thunderous volume to his words. There was no dissonance between actions and words; and that is indeed astonishing!

The concluding point of Jesus' great sermon is a parable about two home builders (Mat 7:24-26). One's efforts were successful even amidst great difficulties; while the other's were not. Both had heard the word, but the former obeyed (resulting in blessings) while the later did not (and met with disaster). Clearly, it is not enough to know the right words. You have to apply them. Habituated obedience, the diligent commitment to do God's will day in and day out, is what set the wise man apart from the foolish man in the parable – and Jesus from the religious leaders in real life! Stunning!

Keep Going:

Today is a good day to go before God and ask him to show you areas where your actions don't rightly match your words. Reread the story of the wise and foolish builders and then enter into God's presence with confidence, asking him to reveal to you areas in your life that need adjusting. Listen to the gracious correction of Holy Spirit and be sensitive to his promptings so that you can walk in fellowship with him as together you align your life with his. Ask God where he would like to bring change into your life and commit yourself to cooperate with his grace to see new habits formed.

Be open to ask him for forgiveness if you have acted at times like the foolish man in the parable; listening to but not applying the word. Receive his forgiveness and thank him as you prepare to walk with him into new lifestyle disciplines that reflect his character. Set your heart to obey the word he has spoken to you. Remember, "don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it" (Jam 1:22-25).

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