

Luke 4:22

So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

When I was reading the other morning and came across this verse one thing popped out to me, and that was "*marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth*" (underlined for emphasis)

To give a little background, Jesus was in the synagogue and read from the book of Isaiah, and then gave a teaching on what He just read.

† **Luke 4:20-21** *Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

Which brings us to today's verse. But I was reading and pondering the fact that Jesus was teaching and His words were gracious words. Thinking that when Jesus taught, His words were gracious, out of love and with passion. And the results were that *all bore witness and marveled at His gracious words*.

I thought how cool, until I read on and, seven verses later I got to verses 28 & 29.

† **Luke 4:28-29** *So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.*

Wait a minute, these same people who marveled at Jesus words thinking they were gracious, are now angry with Jesus' words to the point of wanting to kill Him? Why would they turn from loving Jesus' word to hating His words in just a couple minutes? Simply because Jesus spoke the truth and they could not handle it, because they thought that they were all that and could do no wrong. Yet Jesus' words of truth, cut to the heart of each one and they refused to receive it.

Before we start getting down on these guys, we need to stop and look at ourselves first. How many go to church and love the stories the pastor tells that make us laugh and feel good about ourselves. Yet in the same message the Holy Spirit will speak something to our hearts and we get angry because we don't want that, thinking I came to church to feel good about myself, not to get a beatdown.

First off, it's not a beatdown, but rather God's word being spoke to help change us to be more in the image of Jesus Christ. Second if you go to church and every time you do, you always walk away feeling good about yourself and never challenged, then either you are not paying attention,

or you need to go to a church that teaches the entire word of God, not just a motivational message each week.

If I can encourage you to do anything today, would that be to read Psalm 119. It is amazing speaking of the awesomeness of God's word and how it's not used just to make you feel good about yourself, but to instruct you in the ways of life.

† **Psalm 119:12 *Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes!***

† **Psalm 119:71 *It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.***

† **Psalm 119:124 *Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, And teach me Your statutes.***