

Jesus' openness

His readiness to discuss

First, Jesus' willingness to engage in talk-back wasn't matched by the Pharisees. Though they pursued him relentlessly, confronted him publicly, and challenged his claims openly, they disallowed any challenge to their own position.

For example, when Jesus healed a man born blind, the Pharisees threatened to excommunicate any who dared to voice a belief that Jesus was Israel's Messiah. See John 9.20-22 and 12.42.

Second, Jesus however accepted questions without notice and answered them quite willingly. And after the founding of the Christian Church, his disciples followed his example. When asked a hostile question without notice, the apostle Peter gladly responded. Acts 4.5-7.

Third, the Jews did not see it as inappropriate to fiercely challenge Jesus on their most sacred day, the Sabbath, and in their sacred territory, the synagogue. E.g. Matthew 12.10.

Jesus had no quarrel with this. The synagogue was there to teach what God required. He even challenged them in the Temple, Israel's most holy sanctuary. John 7.14. And later, his disciples did so too. Acts 3.11-12.

Jesus could truly say, "The Lord has given me . . . a word in season." Isaiah 50.4.

So whom can we thank for drawing forth some of Jesus' greatest insights? We can thank the Pharisees!

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Jesus' talk back had the heavenly Father's approval.
Jesus said, "I always do those things that please him." John 8.29.

Ken Packer