

## **The Temple Tax (Rec 9-24-17)**

### **Matthew 17:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? <sup>25</sup> He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? <sup>26</sup> Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. <sup>27</sup> Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

#### **I. Peter Visited By The Tax Collector**

- A. The tax is the Temple tax
- B. Temple Tax uses:
  - 1. The morning and evening sacrifices everyday and all festival offerings for Israel.
  - 2. The care of the priests serving at the Temple.
  - 3. The shelter, food, and clothing of the priest and Levite singers and workers at the Temple.
  - 4. The salaries of a large staff of regular offices who prepared the showbread, incense, sacrifices, cooked food, and made clothes for the workers.
  - 5. The scribes who copied the Law and those who taught each group of priests their duties coming into the Temple.
  - 6. Those who took care of the animals and prepared them for sacrifice.
  - 7. The care and maintenance of the Temple work crews for 40 acres.

8. The care of the city walls, the streets leading into Jerusalem and outside the city.
9. The care of all public buildings in Jerusalem.
10. The care of the choirs, instruments, and musicians for Temple praise.

## II. The Amount Of The Temple Tax

- A. Each Jewish man over 20 years old, and proselyte inside of Israel and outside of the country.
- B. Paid a ½ Shekel.
  1. Equal to 2 days' wages.
  2. 2 Denarii = 2 days' wages.
  3. 2 Didrachma = 2 days' wages.
  4. This was the common pay in the Roman Empire for 2 days work.
  5. A full Shekel would be equal to 4 days wages.
  6. Example:
    - a. Matthew 20:9 (Greek)
 

“And having come about the eleventh hour they received a Denarius” (1 day's wage)
    - b. Luke 10:35 (Greek) Good Samaritan
 

“And on the morrow going forth, taking out two denarii (2days's wages) he gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him take care of him, and whatsoever thou mayest expend more, I on my coming back will repay thee.”
    - c. He left the same amount as the Temple tax, redeeming or atoning for his soul.

### **III. Peter's Confession To Jesus**

- A. I don't have 4 days' wages to give the tax collector.
- B. Jesus' question to Peter, "From whom do kings collect taxes from, their children or strangers?" Peter answered, "strangers." Then Jesus said we are free plus I am the Son of God, and that is my Father's Temple.
- C. Lest we offend them, "collect the money out of a fish's mouth." A whole shekel, equal to 4 days' wages.
- D. If they had Roman coin, paid 15% to money changers to get 1 shekel.

### **IV. Jesus Paid The Atonement Tax**

- A. He later will be the voluntary atonement for man.
- B. He paid to support His Temple.
- C. Peter miraculously drew out a whole shekel (enough to pay for him and Jesus, the Temple tax.)