

JESUS PAYS TAXES

I. THE TEMPLE TAX

Matthew 17:24-27

(24) And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

(25) 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?

(26) Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

(27) 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.

- A. A month before Passover, priests were sent to collect the Temple Tax (Passover, April 23, 2024).
 - 1. Called the Tax or Atonement for the Soul.
 - 2. All men over 20 were obligated to pay drachmas
 - 3. A half-shekel is worth 2 denari or 2 days of wages.
 - 4. This would be used for repairing the Temple or paying for the priests and offering, sacrifice for the year. All necessary expenses of the Temple.
 - 5. It would also cover all the men of Israel. When David neglected the tax before counting the army of Israel, 70,000 men died.
- B. In the New Testament the Jews still paid this Temple Tax. Peter said, yes, the Master would pay their taxes as a good citizen of Israel and its Temple (and synagogues).
- C. In fact, Jesus said, “As the Son, this is My Temple but I don’t want anyone to stumble so I will pay Tax. As the King’s Son I am free, but I will still pay a tax as citizen of the realm and as servant of its Temple.”

II. THE TEMPLE TAX TODAY

- A. Jews pay tithe or atonement “tax” to whatever synagogue they go to as covering for their soul.

- B. It is important as Ramadan begins today that there is safety in your covering. You are a member of a church and you tithe. The children are free from curses.

III. GOD'S PROVISION IN OBEDIENCE

- A. Jesus instructed Peter to go to the Sea of Galilee and cast a hook. The hook was unbaited.
- B. He was told to take the first fish he caught and he would find a coin stuck in its mouth. It was a stater coin, worth 4 drachmas or enough to give to the tax collector.
- C. It was a miraculous supply from the King of the Earth.