



**You Do Know Who  
I Am, Don't You?  
Matthew 17:24-27**



# Observations



- This story may seem unnecessary for you and me, but it is really a lesson to Peter and to us about our ability to model God
- He shows His disciples present with Him, how not to offend each other and also not to offend the world by their actions
- Remember the incident on the Mountain of Transfiguration had just occurred in earlier verses
- And so with the voice of His Father from Heaven still affirming Him in His ears, He consents to be treated as a regular citizen, living *“peaceably with all men.”*



# Observations



- The law of Moses ordained that every man above 20 years of age should pay the sum of half a shekel as an atonement for his soul, and to meet the expenses connected with the service of the tabernacle rendered to God for the common benefit of the Israelites, Exodus 30:12 (about 2 days' wages)
- As a Jew, Jesus was just as much obligated to pay the tax and comply like any other Jew
- Now, there was no peculiar penalty assigned for not obeying this law, but think about the greater humiliation thrust on Jesus to pay taxes for the maintenance of His own Father's house



# Observations



- ▶ Jesus, knowing the conversation the tax collectors just had with Peter, enters immediately into a conversation with him as soon as he came in the house
- ▶ Jesus wanted Peter to know that he answered the tax collectors correctly, but knowing His status, it was inappropriate, or out of harmony with who He was to perform this act, routinely
- ▶ Peter was asked, *“Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?”* He said, *“yes.”*



# Jesus Wanted Peter and the Apostles to See the Moral Meaning and Motive!

- Firstly, for Him to pay the temple dues was a *“humiliation,” and as inappropriate as a king’s son paying a tax for supporting his royal house*
- This was a *“voluntary humiliation”* that He wanted His disciples to adapt
- When you think about it, Christ’s life on earth was in essence a *“voluntary humiliation!”*
- From His birth to His death, He *“humiliated Himself” for us! Acts 8:33 Luke records, “In His humiliation His judgment was taken away.....”*



# **But His Life, In All Respects Departed From The Analogy Of The King's Son**

- ▶ **Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience**
- ▶ **Though He were a Son, He came not to be ministered unto but to minister**
- ▶ **Though He were a Son, He was subject to the ceremonial laws as well as the moral law**
- ▶ **Though He were a Son, yet He was circumcised**
- ▶ **Though He were a Son, He took part in sacred feasts, and sacrifices, although a shadow of things to come**




***Sometimes We Are Asked  
To Do Things That We Feel  
Are “Beneath Our Status”***

***JESUS SAYS, GET OVER IT!***

***(Life Is Not About  
You) Now!***

***It's About Glorifying God!***



## #2 The Manner Of Payment Re-enforces the Lesson!

- ▶ This is the only time in scripture Jesus uses a miracle for His own behalf
- ▶ I think that He abstained from using His “*divine abilities*” for His own benefit, to ensure the integrity of His message, showing that His life was a “*bona fide*” life of hardship, not one alleviated by his “*divine abilities*”





# **But Here His Method Proved The Worth Of His Message! It Says to Peter and Us:**

*Who, Really, Is This Man Who Is Reduced To Paying Taxes ?*

- **It is THE MAN who knows the birds of the air and the fish of the sea!**
- **It is THE MAN who can tell you (Peter) to go to the lake and catch the first fish that comes up, and in his mouth you will find My tax money, and not only Mine, but yours too!**
- **Jesus makes some events personal with Peter, like He does with us**

# ***“Lest we should offend...”***

- **One mark of Jesus’ lowliness was that He didn’t take offence to His treatment by the tax collectors**
- **He might have said:**
- ***“Don’t ya’ll know who I am, I’m the Christ, the Son of the Living God!”***

***“I fed 5000 of you people with five loaves of bread and 2 fish”***

***Or, “I don’t have tax money, I don’t even have home money!” Matthew 8:20***

**So Don’t Murmur When People Don’t Know Who You Are!**



# ***“Lest we should offend,”***

- ▶ Not only did Jesus not take offense in this incident, but He didn't give offense either
- ▶ By deciding to pay the tax, He shows the need to adapt His disposition in a way that God would not be charged by the regular citizen, who would see Him as “*free-loader,*” and the tax collectors who would see Him as a “criminal”

***Let Us Pray For This Attitude  
Of Jesus In Every Aspect  
Of Our Lives!***



# The Plan Of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**                      **Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**                      **Acts 15:7**

**Repent Of Sins**                      **Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**                      **Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**                      **Acts 8:38**