

Teachable Moments

Matthew 17:24-27

Observations

- **Most of the lessons Jesus taught while here on the earth were not from the “pulpit format.”**
- **They were lessons taught from His life experiences with people**
- **Jesus teaches several lessons on leadership, from which we could all learn (home, school, organizations, corporations) that will help in our leadership roles**
- **There is a difference between being the head of an organization (family) and the leader**
- **In Matt. 17:24-27 Jesus uses a “teachable moment” that happened to Peter to help him to grow as man—if only he would listen and apply it in his own life**
- **Hopefully we will get Jesus’ point and apply it to our lives**

Observations

- **Jesus and His disciples enter Capernaum about the same time the Jewish Tax Collectors were going house to house (collecting for the Jewish temple services; not the Roman Tax Collectors who made the Jews pay for governmental services)**
- **According to Exodus 30:11-16, every man greater than 20 years of age, was supposed to pay a small tax that was applied to the services and upkeep of the Jewish temple**
- **Jesus, being a Jew more than 20 years old, was felt to be just as much under obligation to comply with the law as any other man**

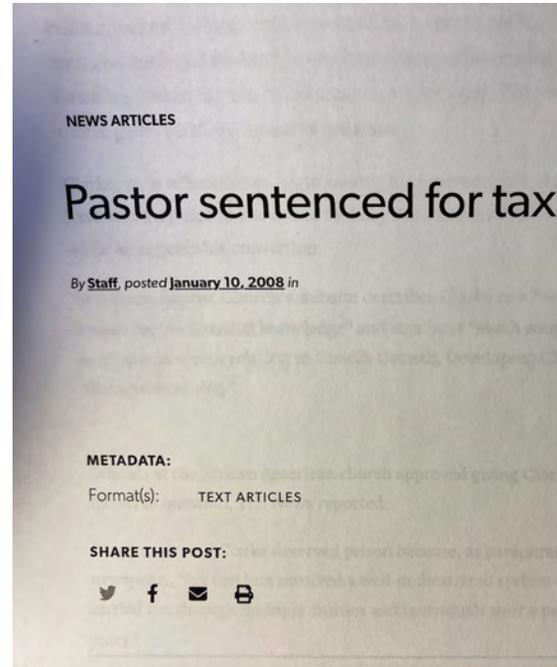
Observations

- **When the tax collector sees Peter, Jesus' disciple, he asks him, "*Your master does pay taxes, doesn't he?*"**
- **Peter's reply was, "*Yes, of course He does.*"**
- **Peter was right. Jesus is teaching us here, that being a citizen of the Kingdom of God does not release us from our responsibilities as citizens of the United States, Jefferson County, or the surrounding area.**

When you enter an agreement with Alabama Power, Spire, Water Works Board—pay them!

We rightfully pay taxes for Police and Fire Protection

Even more so because you are a *Christian*, you pay them



It's embarrassing when leaders (supposedly faith-based) go to jail due to fraud; misrepresentation of their finances; fined due to tax evasion

Jesus Was Aware of Peter's Conversation

- So Jesus, being aware of Peter's conversation with the official, uses it as a *"teachable moment"* to him
- How many experiences does God allow us to go through that should be *"teachable moments"* for us (illnesses, valleys of selfish disappointments, mountaintop episodes, the daily grind)?
- So Jesus asks Peter a question, and in doing so, points out the *"inconsistency of His own behavior,"* relative to who He really was
- His point was that Peter would need to *duplicate* this behavior relative to who he was (a child of God)

Observations

- Jesus asked Peter, *“What do you think?” “Do Kings of countries ask their own children to pay taxes, or the people they have conquered?” (their subjects)*
- Jesus was saying that for Him to pay taxes was just as “inconsistent” as a King’s son having to pay taxes on the palace in which he lives!
- His point was that His whole life, from His birth to His death, was an act of “Voluntary Humiliation”
- Voluntary Humiliation - Volunteering to sublimate oneself for a greater purpose; Hebrews 5:8-9
- Voluntary Humiliation- the Creator dying for the creature!

Observations

- **Jesus wanted Peter and his future leaders (like us), to BEWARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH STATUS CHANGES! The face of the franchise has a different platform (You have to sacrifice your preferences for the brand)**
- **Remember that Jesus had a group of “future stars” who constantly bickered about who would be the most important (have the most perks and privileges in the kingdom), who would have the “reserved parking spaces!”**
- **Jesus is saying that if I assumed your attitude (wanting to assert my self-importance), I would stand on my dignity as the Son of God and tell the Jewish Collectors WHO I AM!**

Observation

Beware of the Temptation That Goes With the Talent or Position That You've Been Given!

- Some singers with talent will not sing passionately unless they are leading
- Preachers that only listen to themselves preach
- The temptation is: "I'm not *all-in* unless I'm it!"
- A leader's heart should be just as "*all-in*" when *supporting* a function as it is when they're *leading* a function (some people never support but "want it" when it's theirs)



Be Satisfied With the Praise You Have Already Received

- **It's interesting that the story of Jesus' affirmation by God, His Father, on the Mountain of Transfiguration, precedes this story in Matthew 17**
- **His Father had already affirmed to Him who He was, and therefore Jesus didn't suffer from an *"identity crisis"* when asked to do something that may be beneath His calling**
- **Parents, it means a whole lot when you have already affirmed your child's significance in the world before they enter the, "world of participation." (sports, school plays)**
- **Think about this: You can kill a beautifully growing plant two ways: 1) Cut, smash, beat it down or 2) Not water, nurture, or fertilize it**

“Lest We Should Offend”

Notice That Jesus Includes Himself

- Jesus knew that He could lose His audience if He didn't do what the common citizen was required to do

Leadership is not just about the high position that defines you, but the people you can influence by your character in that position (servant-leadership)

Sometimes it's better for leaders to recede from their rights than give offense by insisting on their rights (Bro. Mickens and Bro. Steverson)

This Lesson Was a “Teachable Moment for Peter”

- Peter had to ask himself, *“Who is it that is subject to this “tax paying indignity?”*
- *“It’s my Master, who created the birds of the air and the fish in the sea!”*
- Then Jesus instructs Peter: 1) Go down to the sea and throw out your fishing line. 2) Then open the mouth of the first fish you catch. 3) In it you will find a four-drachma coin (a large silver coin). 4) Take it out. It will be enough to pay your taxes and mine.

Peter had to say to himself:

Who Else Knows This Kind of Information?

GOD DOES!



Teachable Moments

God Grants All of Us “Teachable Moments” Like These Stories to Increase Our Faith!

Pray That You Can Recognize Them When They are There!

This Church has Just Experienced the “Reality of Death” That Can Be a “Teachable Moment” For Us

***Sudden Calamity vs. Chronic Illness
What About You?***

Are You Prepared Either Way?

***Prepare to Meet thy God,
Amos 4:12***

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