



**VOLUNTARY
HUMILIATION
MATTHEW 17:24-27**

OBSERVATIONS

- Every time I preach from this text of three verses, I glean something new from God's word that was already there
- Jesus is teaching several lessons on leadership, from which we all could learn (home, school, organizations, corporations) that will help in our leadership roles
- Jesus uses a simple story that happened to Peter to help him grow as a man, if only he would listen and apply it. Hopefully we will, as we study together. 2 Timothy 2:15

OBSERVATIONS

- **Jesus and His disciples enter Capernaum, about the same time the Jewish Tax Collectors are going from house to house (collecting for the Jewish temple services; not the Roman 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 greater than 20, 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, he walks up to him and asks, “Your master does pay taxes, doesn’t He?” Peter retorts, “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, The Water Works Board, pay them. We rightfully pay taxes for Police and Fire protection; pay for Drivers Licenses, for Car Insurance.

- **Even more so because you are a Christian, you pay them**
- **It’s embarrassing when leaders (especially supposedly faith based people) go to jail due to embezzlement and fraud (misrepresentation); Fined due to tax evasion; ask for legal help if needed**

JESUS WAS AWARE OF PETER'S CONVERSATION

- Jesus, being aware of Simon Peter's conversation, uses it as a *“teachable moment”* to him
- How many experiences does God send us through, for the purpose of being *“teachable moments”* for us (*illnesses, valleys of disappointments, mountaintop episodes, the daily grind*)?
- So Jesus asks Peter a question, and in doing so, points out the *“inconsistency of His own behavior,”* in that instance, based on the position that He held.

OBSERVATIONS

- Jesus asked Peter, “*Do Kings of countries ask their own children to pay taxes (levy), or the people they have conquered (their subjects)?*”
- Jesus is saying that for Him to pay taxes was just as “*inconsistent,*” as a King’s son having to pay taxes for the Palace in which he lives!
- Jesus’ point was, that His whole life, from his birth to His death, was an act of, “**Voluntary Humiliation.**” (Whoever heard of an owner voluntarily **DYING** for a dog he purchased (cat, hamster, car, home, etc.)! The Creator dying for the creature!

OBSERVATIONS

- Jesus wanted Peter and his future leaders to **BEWARE OF THE PRIDE AND SELF ASSERTION THAT TEMPTINGLY COMES WITH STATUS CHANGES!**
- Remember Jesus had a group of future leaders (his apostles), who constantly bickered about who would be the most important (have the most perks and privileges) in the kingdom
- Jesus is saying, if I were like you all (wanting to assert my importance) I would stand on my dignity as the **SON OF GOD** and tell them **WHO I AM** (“Little people pay taxes”)!
- Beware of “the temptation that goes with the talent you have been given!” (singers that won’t sing back-up, preachers that listen only to themselves) **Won’t be punctual anymore.**

BE SATISFIED WITH PRAISE YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED!

- The story of Jesus' affirmation by God on the Mountain of Transfiguration precedes this story in Matthew 17 (His Father had already affirmed to Him who He was, therefore He 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
- You can kill a plant in two ways: 1) cut, smash, beat it down or 2) not water it, nurture, or fertilize

OBSERVATIONS

Without Real Affirmation, and Nurturing You Get

Counterfeit Masculinity

- **How many girls can I conquer**
- **How much alcohol can I drink, cigarettes, drugs**
- **How many people can I bully and enforce my wrath**

Counterfeit Femininity

- **Sexual relationships “affirm” her worth**
- **Change your looks based on societal standards for morality**
- **Anorexia Nervosa**

“LEST WE SHOULD OFFEND” JESUS INCLUDED HIMSELF!

- Jesus knew that if He refused the payment of taxes, He might lose His audience and chance for evangelism of his people (leadership is not just about you and a new position, but the people you can influence because of you and the position)
- Leaders have to be faithful to the miniscule as well as the gigantic (Bro. Mickens swept church floors)
- Sometimes it's best for a leader to recede from his or her rights rather than giving offence by insisting upon their rights (something as little as church manners can be pivotal)

THIS LESSON WAS FOR PETER IN PARTICULAR!

- Peter asked himself, *“Who is it that is subject to this tax-paying indignity and subject to this demand?”*
- *“It’s my master who knows the birds of the air and all of the fishes of the sea!”*
- *I’m instructed by Jesus to go down to the sea and throw out my fishing line.” The first fish I catch, when I open his mouth, I will see a large silver coin (four-drachma coin), enough for my master’s taxes and mine!*
- **Who else knows this much information?**
- **If we participate in God’s work, we shall share in stories like this one to increase our faith**

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