

“Doing the Right Thing”

“Matthew 17:24-27”

Jesus and his disciples have just recently entered into the city of Capernaum. In the opening of this chapter Jesus takes his closest disciples in Peter, James, and John up into the mountain of transfiguration and shows them his glorified state. The experience is so phenomenal that neither of the disciples want to come down out of the mountain. When they return to the valley they find a situation in which a man brings his demon possessed son to the disciples and none of them can deliver them. Jesus casts the demon out of the boy and informs his disciples that this kind of work is done by fasting and praying.

Verse 24: Jesus and his disciples have just arrived in the city of Capernaum. While they are in the city there are those from the temple that are come to receive the tribute money. The tribute money was a temple tax that faithful Jewish men paid. It is generally supposed to be paid during the week of the Passover but those from the temple came by to pick it up early. They ask a question to Peter concerning does Jesus pay the tribute.

- 1) These representatives from the temple were not concerned about whether Jesus was paying the temple tax they simply wanted to find fault in Jesus.
- 2) Some people are more concerned about what you fail to do than what you actually do.
- 3) These are the same individuals that felt that it was wrong for Jesus to heal on the sabbath.
- 4) We should never value money over people.

Verse 25-26: Peter makes it his issue to defend Jesus and to inform them that Jesus does pay the temple tax. When Peter makes it in the house Jesus asks him the question “of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children or strangers? In other words do Kings make their children pay tribute/taxes?”

- 1) We should always make it our issue to defend our God, church, and Pastor whenever people try to say negative things about them.
- 2) If kings do not make their children pay a tax then why should the Son of God have to pay a tax?

Verse 27: Jesus responds to Peter that even though by Jewish law He isn't obligated to pay the temple tax that he was still going to do so in order to maintain the peace. In order to pay the tax he gives Peter instructions on what he needs to do to get the money. Take a hook and go to the sea and the first fish that he catches take a piece of money out of his mouth and that shall be enough to pay for the both of them.

- 1) If Jesus felt it was right to pay a tax/give an offering what is our excuse?
- 2) Peter is having some financial issues because he has forsaken his family and his job to follow after Jesus. Yet and still Jesus does not disqualify him from paying the tax.

- 3) Peter is accustomed to fishing in a boat with large nets but now Jesus ask him to use a hook and a pole to catch a fish.
- 4) Because Peter has faithful, humble, and obedient Jesus provided enough for the both of them.
- 5) Peter needed to see this miracle so that in the days to come he would know what God is able to do. (Acts 12:1-11)