



PROVISION IN THE HOUSE

Matthew 17:24–27

²⁴When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, “Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?”²⁵He said, “Yes.” And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?”²⁶Peter said to Him, “From strangers.” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free.²⁷Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”

—Matthew 17:24–27

Read Matthew 17:24–27

We live in this world as citizens of another kingdom. Nevertheless, we are instructed by God’s Word to *Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s* (Matthew 22:21), and *be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God* (Romans 13:1). We do this so that *We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed* (2 Corinthians 6:3). Though Jesus is the Son of God and the world was made by Him (John 1:3), He lived under the authority of the law and obeyed the law. In this way, the Lord showed us how we are to live as citizens of heaven in the kingdom of men.

After Peter was asked to pay the temple tax, he found Jesus waiting for him in the house. Jesus obviously anticipated the questions Peter must have had: *Should we pay temple tax when those in charge of the temple are so corrupt? Should we pay temple tax when it should be honoring Jesus, the Son of God, rather than demanding from Him? Are*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

—1 Timothy 2:1–4

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The temple tax was not an obligatory tax, but every Jewish male over twenty was pressured by religious leaders to pay it (see also Exodus 30:13, 38:25–26).

the temple taxes fair or just? We often struggle with these same questions. The answer to Peter is the same for us. We pay and obey in order not to offend.

Jesus not only understood Peter’s questions and answered them, but He also gave Peter outrageous instructions for the provision that was needed.

As you pore over your lesson this week, consider the Lord’s willing compliance with the law as well as His divine means of provision.

1. According to Matthew 17:24–26:
 - a. What was the location?
 - b. Who came to Peter?
 - c. What was the issue?
 - d. What did Peter answer?
 - e. What happened when Peter entered the house?
 - f. What two questions did Jesus ask Peter?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - g. What did Peter answer?
 - h. What did Jesus declare?

2. Use Matthew 17:27 to answer the following questions:
 - a. Why did Jesus choose to pay the temple taxes?
 - b. What was the unique way in which He provided the money for the taxes?
3. From this account share your thoughts about:
 - a. *Tax*
 - b. *The kings of the earth*
 - c. *Sons*
 - d. *Strangers*
 - e. *Offend*
 - f. Jesus' ways
4. What is your greatest takeaway from Jesus' provision in the house?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In Jesus' time, priests and many rabbis were not obligated to pay the temple tax.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The large silver coin was probably a Greek coin equal to four drachmas.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Once a fisherman, always a fisherman. Jesus tells Peter to do something he enjoyed doing—he loved fishing. The Lord said, let's combine a little pleasure with business.

—Pastor Chuck Smith

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

[This is] the only mention in the New Testament of fishing with a hook. A single fish is wanted.¹⁸