

*The key
The bond
The lesson*

MIRACLE OF THE TRIBUTE MONEY

Place--Capernaum. Peculiar to Matt. Just before discourse on who greatest in kgdom of heaven. Perhaps tax-gatherer's recognition of Peter as the leader and spokesman brot it on.

Collected in month preceding Passover 1800 or thereabouts

Theme--The Omniscient Christ.

I. Omniscience and Conversation, 24-25a.

God knows all

*Ex 30:13 1/2 shekel. Neh. 10:32 1/3 shekel
at time 1/2*

A. A Question Asked. Tax collectors ques may have been sincere bec other Rabbis known to have claimed exemption or may have been asked to try to trap X. If He paid then quit claim to be greater than temple (Mt 12:6); if not, then He not a true Jew. It was a religious tax, not civil (diff from Matt 22:17ff). About 25¢ per yr per Jew was half shekel. Based on Exod 30:11-16 (every Jew over 20 cf. Exod 38:25-28; Neh. 10:32). It implied acknowledgment of God's claims and duty of God's people to uphold their sanctuary. X hears all such questions the world poses today. Tho He was in the house when man asked Peter and tho He in heaven today.

B. A Question Answered. In his haste and zeal Peter answered with boldness that of course X paid. X hears our answers too. Peter's motive good bec prompted by zeal for Master. Mt 12:36. 2 Cor 5:10.

C. A Question Anticipated. Peter began to have misgivings when got into the house. X anticipated them and as always is ready not to rebuke, but to teach patiently.

*Know all Omniscient
know all Unique
Christlike Omnipotent*

II. Omniscience and Condescension, 25b-27a.

God is above all

A. Because of Who He is. He is the Son of God--one of the family and therefore not liable for the tax. Strangers are the Jewish nation. Sons plural even tho it refers to X alone bec of nature of the illustration. This is a clear statement of the Deity of X. As Son He was free from impost for maintainance of Father's Temple. Strangers not a ref to Gentiles but to those outside the family circle. X claiming a unique relationship to God diff from all other Jews. Not much condescension in what He did except that He did it.

B. Because of What He does.

1. In submitting Himself. To pay for maintainance for few months of sacrifices which foreshadowed His death.

2. In associating Himself. With the disciples in this tax. Yet there is distance, for He says "for me and thee" not "for us."

4v7L Ex 30:15 - atonement

3. In constraining Himself. Not to be offended by Peter's hasty answer, and not to give offense to Jews by not paying. He is a good reformer bec He is here avoiding action which would give offense and is not necessary to the success of His reform movement. Remember that when out in a church. He submits rather than risking offense. Cf our conduct and standing on our rights.

*Resists Humility
Serving self
Submits Substantive*

III. Omniscience and Circumstances, 27.

God is over all

A. X Knows Circumstances. Miracle wrought when nat'l means might have been used. Yet He didn't create the money--only demonstrated His omniscience. Sometimes in His work He would be pleased with being allowed to demonstrate He knows where money is instead of using natural PR means. Knew the right fish in the right place at the right time. Illus with visiting Morells that night.

B. X Uses Circumstances. To meet the need. Coin would have been a shekel. Current and sufficient for 2 taxes. No surplus. It met the need; it glorified X; it taught Peter.

If paying would obscure His claim to deity, the miracle showed it

Staten Greek silver coin = 1/2 shekel = 4 drachmas