

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew 17:24-27

INTRODUCTION

I. A STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE TAX

A. What was it?

1. Exodus 30:11, Moses' command
2. II Chronicles 24:6, Joash's collection
3. Nehemiah 10:32, Nehemiah's collection
4. The Mishnah, priestly commentary

B. What was it for?

II. THE SINISTER INTENT OF THE QUESTION TO PETER

A. Does Jesus, the disciples' teacher, pay the temple tax?

B. How does Jesus respond?

III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' RESPONSE

A. What we learn from the context

B. What can we learn for our lives today?

1. From the OT, Malachi 3:8ff
2. From the NT...
 - a. It is encouraged in II Corinthians 8:7
 - b. It is explained in II Corinthians 9:7

LIVING THE WORD THIS WEEK

Matthew 17:24-27

1. Discuss the temple tax, reflecting on that it was used for and how it was collected. How do you think the temple would have existed and functioned without the tax?
2. What did those who asked Peter the question about Jesus paying the tax have in mind? How does this reflect the whole tenor of their response to Jesus, the Messiah?
3. Jesus' question about whether kings tax their sons was asked of Peter to make what point? Why is that important in Matthew's gospel?
4. Jesus provided a way for both His and Peter's tax to be paid miraculously. If Jesus was exempt from such a tax, why did He choose to pay it? What was His expectation of Peter?
5. The Old Testament passage of Malachi 3:8ff is often quoted regarding tithes and offerings as a standard for giving. Discuss the promises God makes in this passage. Does it apply to today in principle?
6. II Corinthians 8:7 says we should "excel" in giving. What was the context of his exhortation? Does it apply to us today? Why or why not?
7. II Corinthians 9:7 talks about the attitude and mode of our giving. What principles emerge from here? How do they apply to you personally?