

Matthew 17:24-27 **Paying Temple Tax**

²⁴ When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?" ²⁵ He 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?" ²⁶ Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. ²⁷ Nevertheless, 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." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ The Temple tax was not included in the Laws of God anywhere.
 - ✧ When it came time to repair the Temple in the days of Jehoash the king and Jehoiada the priest, the work was done by Free-will Offerings. [[2 Kings 12:4-16](#)]
 - ✧ God called for the Temple to be restored, but a tax was not levied, in the days of Haggai the prophet. [[Haggai 1:3-11](#)]
 - ✧ So apparently, by the time of Christ, the system of the Temple tax had been levied at the commandment of men for the maintenance of the Temple and synagogues used for teaching centers for the Jews.
 - ✧ The question arose in Capernaum where there was no Temple, but a Synagogue was there as was common in many Jewish communities around the world.
 - ✧ Jesus went about Galilee and taught in their synagogues. [[Matthew 4:23, 9:35](#)]
 - ✧ Paul the apostle visited the Jewish Synagogues wherever he traveled in his missionary journeys as indicated throughout the book of Acts.
- ✚ Jesus questioned the validity of the tax, but **in order to avoid offending them**, He miraculously provided the coin to cover His tax and Peter's as well.
 - ✧ The procedure of obtaining the coin was most unusual. It involved knowing that a fish had picked up the coin, the value of the coin, the timing for the fish to take the hook Peter was to cast into the sea, and the unlikely probability of the fish taking a hook while it had a coin in its mouth.
 - ✧ This certainly would not happen by chance, so we see the hand of Almighty God guiding the fish to perfectly fulfill the Words of Jesus.