

A Fish Story

Matthew 17:24-27

Jesus' Five Discourses (cf. Matt. 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)

1. **saw The Sermon on the Mount** (Matt. 5-7)
2. **The Missionary Discourse** (Matt. 10)
3. **The Kingdom Discourse** (Matt. 13)
4. **The Church Discourse** (Matt. 18)
5. **The Olivett Discourse** (Matt. 24-25)

I. A _____ (v. 24)

- a. **Capernaum** was Jesus' homebase during His Galilean ministry and we believe He stayed in Peter's home.
- b. The **two-drachma tax** was instituted by God through Moses (cf. Ex. 30:11-15; 38:25-26; 2 Chron. 24:6-9; Neh. 10:32; Josephus *Ant.* 18.9.1; *J.W.* 7.6.6; Mishna *Seqa*)
 - i. **two-drachma** = **half a shekel** = 2 denarii
 - ii. **statēr (στατήρ)** = "a silver coin worth two-drachma" = 4 denarii = 2 men's Temple Taxes
- c. It was a Jewish Ecclesiastical Tax and not a Roman Civil Tax
 - i. Not official Publicans/ **telōnēs (τελώνης)** = "tax collectors" but were instead **lambanontes (λαμβάνοντες)** = "one who collects or receives"
- d. "**Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?**" was a negatively framed question that insinuated Jesus was already violating Jewish Law, which suggests this was a trap (cf. Matt. 22:15-22)
 - i. Peter's emphatic reply supports this conclusion "**Yes**"

II. A _____ (v. 25-26)

- a. First Lesson: **Jesus is _____**
 - i. **Jesus spoke to him first** infers His Divine Omniscience (Matt. 9:4; 12:15, 25).
- b. Two Different Types of Taxes:

- i. **custom = telos (τέλος)** = "duty, tax, revenue" [a tariff on goods]
- ii. **poll-tax = kēnsos (κῆνσος)** = "tax, poll tax" [a tax on people]
- c. Jesus is using Kingdom imagery
- d. The key to this Parable
 - i. **sons** = the kings' children & members of his royal family
 - ii. **strangers** = commoners or citizens
- e. First Lesson (Repeated): **Jesus is _____**
 - i. If **sons** refers only to Jesus cf. Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17 & Matt. 28:18; cf. Ps. 8:6-8; 136:3; Deut. 10:17; 1 Tim. 6:15; Heb. 2:6ff; Rev. 1:5; 17:14; 19:16
- f. Second Lesson: **Christians Are _____ Under the Old Covenant**
 - i. If **sons** refers to Jesus & His disciples (cf. Matt. 5:17-18; Mark 12:28-32; 1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2; James 1:25; 2:12)
- g. Third Lesson: **Christians Are _____ by God**
 - i. We are not just saved FROM something; we are also saved FOR something (Eph. 2:19; cf. Phil. 3:17-21; Heb. 12:22-23)

III. A _____ (v. 27)

- a. Fourth Lesson: **Christians Should _____ Offend Others**
 - i. **offend = skandalizō (σκανδαλίζω)** = "to offend" or "to cause someone to stumble or cease believing" (Rom. 14:13ff; cf. Matt. 22:17-21; 1 Cor. 8; 9:12)
- b. Unique Characteristics of this Miracle:
 - i. The only miracle involving the use of money
 - ii. The only miracle we don't see fulfilled in the text
 - iii. The only miracle that may actually benefit Jesus
- c. Fifth Lesson: **The Lord _____ (Matt. 6:31-34)**
 - i. This is definitely a miracle!