

How did the coin get in the fish's mouth?

Question: In Matthew 17:27, Peter caught a fish with a coin in its mouth. How did the coin get there?

Answer: Matthew 17:24-27 says:

And when they had come to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter, and said, "Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?"

And upon his saying, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Consequently the sons are exempt. But, lest we give them offense, go to the sea, and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a stater. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."

The following comes from *Slaying Your Giants* :

Peter obeyed Jesus. He threw out his line into the sea and waited for a nibble. After a few seconds, he noticed his cork begin to bob, and then disappear under water. He pulled back on his pole, lifting the fish out of the sea and into the boat.

When he opened the fish's mouth, he discovered a coin inside. It was a stater, the exact amount needed to pay the tax for both Jesus and Peter. The only way it could have been more miraculous would be if he had taken the coin out of the fish's mouth, and the fish had said, "Ta-da!" The right fish was at the right place at the right time with the right amount. God 's divine appointments never disappoint.



How did the coin get in the fish's mouth? Did God create the money in its mouth?

I don't think so. If Jesus was going to create money, He could have turned a couple of flat stones into coins and handed them to Peter. Besides, it would have made Jesus a counterfeiter if He had created the coins because it wouldn't have been the official currency of the government.

No, someone in a boat on the Sea of Galilee either threw a coin into the water or accidentally dropped a coin overboard. As it drifted toward the bottom, the fish caught it in its mouth, and without swallowing it, kept it there until Peter threw in his hook and caught him. What are the odds of that happening?

Without God, one in ten billion. With God, one in one!

(Kent Crockett, *Slaying Your Giants*, Hendrickson Publishers, p.12)

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