

JESUS & TAXES! MT. 17:24-27

KJV	NASB95
<p>Matthew 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money (τὰ δίδραχμα) came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay (τελεῖ) tribute (τὰ δίδραχμα)?</p> <p>Matthew 17:25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom (τέλη) or tribute (κῆνσον)? of their own children, or of strangers?</p> <p>Matthew 17:26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.</p> <p>Matthew 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money (στατῆρα): that take, and give unto them for me and thee.</p>	<p>Matthew 17:24 When they came to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?”</p> <p>Matthew 17:25 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?”</p> <p>Matthew 17:26 When Peter said, “From strangers,” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are exempt.</p> <p>Matthew 17:27 “However, so that we do not offend them, 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 shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me.”</p>

Luke 23:2 And they began to accuse him, saying, **We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute (φόρους δίδόναι) to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.**

Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute (φόρον) to whom tribute (φόρον) is due; **custom (τὸ τέλος)** to whom **custom (τὸ τέλος)**; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

We can only be sure of two things: death & taxes!

What does Scripture teach us?

1. Jesus paid his taxes

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Matthew 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received **tribute money (τὰ δίδραχμα)** came to Peter, and said, **Doth not your master pay (τελεῖ) tribute (τὰ δίδραχμα)?** **Matthew 17:25** He saith, **Yes...**

2. Jesus paid all his taxes!

Matthew 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received **tribute money (τὰ δίδραχμα)** came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master **pay (τελεῖ) tribute (τὰ δίδραχμα)?** **Matthew 17:25** He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take **custom (τέλη) or tribute (κῆνσον)?** of their own children, or of strangers?

Thoughts:

- **The Jews had more than 1 kind of tax**
- **Some were “more welcome” than others!**
- **The initial question was about the temple tax**

This was a Greek word equivalent to 2 denarii/ two days wages for the temple in Jerusalem

Exodus 30:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Exodus 30:12 When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. **Exodus 30:13** This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, **half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary:** (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. **Exodus 30:14** Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. **Exodus 30:15** The rich shall **not** give more, and the poor shall **not** give less **than half a shekel,** when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

Exodus 38:25 And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation was an hundred talents, and a thousand seven hundred and threescore and fifteen shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary: **Exodus 38:26** A bekah for every man, that is, **half a shekel,** after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men.

- **The Jews in Jesus’ day also had taxes**
- **Many were probably “hated” taxes**
- **Some were exceptionally “hated” taxes!**

Custom (τό τέλος) = customs, terminal, termination

Tribute (ὁ κῆνσος) = the census, poll, or head tax → simply for the privilege of existing in your homeland under Roman rule! Thanks for coming in and taking over!

- **Taxes owed to Rome**
- **Taxes farmed out to tax collectors (Publicans / Publicani)**
- **The taxes were then collected by these middle men**
- **They also added their cut to the taxes**

Matthew 9:9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at **the receipt of custom**: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

Matthew 9:10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many **publicans** and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. **Matthew 9:11** And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with **publicans** and sinners?

Matthew 10:3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and **Matthew the publican**; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Luke 3:12 Then came also **publicans** to be baptized, and said unto him, **Master, what shall we do?** **Luke 3:13** And he said unto them, **Exact no more than that which is appointed you.**

- **Supervised by the chief/ head tax collector!**

Luke 19:2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was **the chief among the publicans (ἀρχιτελώνης)**, and he was rich.

Luke 19:7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. **Luke 19:8** And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. **Luke 19:9** And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forso much as he also is a son of Abraham. **Luke 19:10** For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

3. Jesus didn't need / have to pay his taxes!

Matthew 17:25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take **custom (τέλη)** or **tribute (κῆνσον)?** of their own children, or of strangers? **Matthew 17:26** Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, **Then are the children free.**

4. Jesus paid his taxes as a matter of honor/ testimony

Matthew 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find **a piece of money (στατήρα)**: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

The major moral principle which guides us, grounds us, & directs us!!!

Romans 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

1 Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

1 Corinthians 8:13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

1 Corinthians 10:33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Leviticus 19:14 Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

5. Jesus paid his taxes through...!

Matthew 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find **a piece of money (στατήρα)**: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.