



## The Gospel of Matthew

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### *“Temple Tax: A Lesson in Humility”*

Matthew 17:22-27

And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men;

and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.” And they were deeply grieved.

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.”

Matthew 17:22-27



## A Lesson in Humility

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### Background:

- “*didrachma*” – not a civil tax in support of Rome but a Jewish tax in support of the temple (based in part on the Law – Exod. 30:13)
- two drachma was equivalent to two days’ wages or one-half a shekel or stater



## A Lesson in Humility

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### 1. The Exemption: “*sons are free*”

- Jesus as the unique Son of God is exempt from the temple tax (imposed by His Father)
- Jesus implicitly frees His followers from temple obligations



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### 2. The Example: *Humility of Jesus*

- though exempt as the Son, He willingly submitted to this temple tax
- though Lord of all nature, He did not assert His status or rights to avoid the tax but willingly endured this indignity



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### 3. The Motive: *Not Giving Offense*

- Jesus sought to avoid giving *unnecessary* offense in order not to hinder the gospel
- Jesus was willing to give up His “rights” in order not to give undue offense



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### Application

#### ➤ *following the example of Jesus*

- willing to forego rights and freedoms in order not to bring offense against the gospel
- use your freedom as a slave of God; doing all things for the sake of the gospel