

## MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

*Tuesday, March 8, 2016*

# Paying Temple Tax

**Matthew 17:24 – 18:6**

### Major Segments:

- The Temple Tax
- Decision to pay or not to pay the tax
- How to come up with the money
- Your witness to the world
- Who is the greatest in God's Kingdom
- Growing into a child

### Segment Questions:

- Taxes were and are an obligation to pay yesterday and today. How is it important to be consistent with our "rights" to pay tax? Are things any different today? What way(s)?
- Jesus asks Peter his opinion on whether he is obligated to pay the tax. Did Peter misrepresent Jesus with saying to the collectors they had paid the taxes? If so, what do you think went through Jesus thoughts about Peter saying yes to pay the tax before the decision? Was it a lie? Why do you think Peter did what he did?
- Jesus wants to hold a witness among the people as a tax payer like all others. Have you ever paid more than you thought your fair share? What would you have thought as Peter when asked to "go fish"? Do you think Jesus knew in advance there would be enough to cover both Jesus and Peter's tax in the mouth of the fish?
- How surprised do you think the disciples were when asked about the greatest in the Kingdom being a child? Do you think Jesus comment about being converted and humbled as a child "will not enter the kingdom of heaven isn't rather harsh? How do you see Jesus strong words in this passage fit with His grace and forgiveness?
- Growing as a child gives way to how transparent we are to be gentle, kind, and humble to others. How are we to live up to child-like faith? Give an example of how we should act (witness) among our children as a parent? Hint: attitude and words

### Action Questions:

- Give an example of a time when you failed in trusting Jesus for an obligation task beyond your means.
- Where do you fall short with acting in child-like faith?

## **Matthew 17:24-18:6**

From: [www.btstories.com](http://www.btstories.com)

On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, "Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?"

"Yes, he does," Peter replied. Then he went into the house.

But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?"

"They tax the people they have conquered," Peter replied.

"Well, then," Jesus said, "the citizens are free! However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us."

About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

"And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.