

Always Carry Out Your God-Given Responsibilities

Matthew 17:22-27

● List as many kinds of taxes that you pay

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

● Understanding the lesson requires us to understand the text (and it is not about paying taxes).

1. The Greek word used in verse 24 is didrachma which means a d_____ drachma. It was a single coin = ½ shekel, the value needed to pay the t_____ tax.
 - a. The KJV translates it as tribute. But a tribute was levied by a f_____ government
 - b. This tax was part of the M_____ law (Ex 30:12,13)
2. Only Jewish males age ____ and up paid this tax. However, some priests thought they should be exempt from this tax.
3. Peter is questioned by those collecting this tax as to the p_____ of Jesus in paying this tax. (The Greek tense used for “pay” is in a tense that refers to an ongoing practice).
4. Jesus teaches Peter:
 - a. *From whom do the earthly kings collect import and income taxes, from their s_____ or from s_____?*
 - b. *Therefore, the sons are e_____ from paying taxes.*
 - 1) The temple tax was levied by God to maintain His h_____ (Is 56:7)
 - 2) Since Jesus is God’s Son (the entire context from 16:16 on; also see 17:22,23), the Jesus is exempt.
 - c. *However, so that we don’t o_____ them, go fishing, find payment in the catch, and pay it for you and Me.*
 - 1) The word to offend refers to purposely triggering a t_____ to catch someone.
 - 2) It is one thing to offend someone by doing g_____ (e.g. healing on the Sabbath offended the Pharisees because it violated their man-made rules). It is another thing to offend someone by refraining from a good thing (paying to help maintain God’s house).

3) Jesus did not want to be a hindrance to the t_____ of the gospel message.

●Application

1. Our s_____ must be consistent with the tone of the gospel message.
 - a. Many in our society use their right to free speech inappropriately (e.g. demean others, disrespect leaders)
 - b. Christians have the responsibility to have r_____ speech (1Pet 2:17; Eph 4:29)
2. Our a_____ must be consistent with the tone of the gospel message.
 - a. Insisting on our freedom of religion is sometimes done wrongly. For example, praying in public (but see Matt 6:5) – if you do this, check your m_____.
 - b. Husbands and wives can fall into rolls. To use this as an excuse to NOT do something is violating God's command for spouses to serve each other in l_____ and r_____ (Eph 5:25,33).

Our speech and our actions must always be seasoned with the tone of the gospel. The tone of the gospel is l_____, mercy, g_____, and forgiveness. ALWAYS carry out your God-given responsibility.