



“Removing Obstacles for the Gospel’s Sake”

Matthew 17:22–27

The Authority of the King

Introduction:

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. 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?’ 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?’ When Peter said, ‘From strangers,’ Jesus said to him, ‘Then the sons are exempt. 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.’”

The King’s Second Passion Prediction for the Gospel’s Sake (vv. 22–23)

The King is Delivered for the Gospel’s Sake (v. 22) “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;”

“delivered” – *paradidōmi* – hand over for judgment

Judges 2:14 – “So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies.”

The King’s Death for the Gospel’s Sake (v. 23) “...and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.” And they were deeply grieved.

Matthew 28:17 – “And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.”

May discouragement never blind us to the good news around us.

The King’s Priorities Questioned

“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?’” (v.24)

Temple-tax was legislated for the maintenance of the temple (Exodus 30:11–16).

Matthew 12:6 – “I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.”

The King’s Rebuttal

“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?’ When Peter said, ‘From strangers,’ Jesus said to him, ‘Then the sons are exempt.’” (vv. 25–26)

Earthly kings don’t tax their children, they tax their subjects. Jesus, the royal Son of the King is rightfully free from paying the temple tax.

The King’s Humility for the Gospel’s Sake

“However, so that we do not offend them...” (v. 27a)

“offend” – *skandalizō* – cause to sin; make to stumble

“...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.” (v. 27b)

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 – “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What stuck out to you the most from this message?
2. What are some of the adiaphorous matters (that which has no inherent moral bearing) that seem to create obstacles for the Gospel to go forth?
3. Are there any freedoms that you may have to limit yourself to for the sake of the Gospel?
4. Is there anything that you are currently observing that may be a stumbling block for someone else?