

## How to do Ministry in Tight Economic Times

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Matthew 17:24** When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the *temple* tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the **temple tax**?" <sup>25</sup> He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" <sup>26</sup> Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. <sup>27</sup> "Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find **a piece of money**; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

<sup>NLT</sup> **Matthew 17:24** 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**?" <sup>25</sup> "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?" <sup>26</sup> "They tax the people they have conquered," Peter replied. "Well, then," Jesus said, "the citizens are free!" <sup>27</sup> 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."

DRACHMA TAX: Josephus speaks of the large amounts accruing to the temple-treasury from this source (Ant, XIV, vii, 2). It was still collected as the distinctive temple-tax levied upon the citizen as such (**Matthew 17:24**).

### 1. Jesus takes issue with the primary temple tax.

- Do kingdoms tax the "experienced citizens" or the newcomers?

Jesus concludes that the way they built resources was irrational.

He described this activity like a leader of "*an aggressive kingdom.*"

- If we would "tax" the newcomer then the sons would be "tax exempt"
- So go get the tax by doing what you're good at doing "go fishing." **Vs 27**

### 2. Jesus sends Peter back to fishing.

- The act of fishing highlights the call to be fishers of men **Matthew 4:19**
- The act of fishing demonstrates the call of God to do what we do best! **Matthew 28:19** and **Mark 16:15**
- The act of fishing connotes continued activity in tight economic times

### 3. The results meet the need of both Peter and Jesus!

The result was that God already knew what He would do- Sovereignty

➤ The result was that the need was met – Providence

Some takeaways and initiatives...

1. When we look to only the people we have we greatly limit financial growth
2. When we begin to function as a dynamic entity we take some pressure off of the “leading sons”
3. When we assimilate people effectively we may discover new streams of “temple resources.”

*Let's encourage all the sons and daughters in ministry to “go fishing.”*

*Dr. La Fayette Scales, Apostle  
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