

Matthew 17:24-27

Go Fish

December 8, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro -

Will Rogers: *"The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets."*

v.24 - When they'd come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he'd 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?" Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you've opened its mouth, you'll find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

1. The Tax Collector's Question.

Exodus 30:11-15 - The LORD said to Moses, "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, that there may be no plague among them when you number them. This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary. The half-shekel shall be an offering to the LORD. Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the LORD. The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when you give an offering to the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves."

Exodus 30:11-12 - The LORD said to Moses, "When you take a census of the Israelites... then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD.

This is a picture of the Tobin Bridge in Boston.

https://www.google.com/search?q=tobin+bridge&sxsrf=ACYBGNTQ2pX91p4cTo p_Acw1tbYvbOZtNg:1575555994168&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj5oey6257mAhWCslkKHazVDusQ_AUoAnoECBQQBA&biw=1920&bih=937

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2. Peter's Answer

v.25 - Peter said, "Yes"

Strong people can stand up for themselves. Stronger people stand up for others.

3. Jesus' Explanation

v.25 - "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" Peter said to Him, "From strangers."

v.26 - Jesus said to him, "The sons are free."

Exodus 30 - "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, then every man shall give a ransom for himself ...when you give an offering to the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves.

John 2:19-21 - Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I'll raise it up again." They replied, "It's taken forty-six years to build this temple, and You're going to raise it in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

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Revelation 21:22 - I saw no temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

v.27 - "Nevertheless, lest we offend them..."

Matthew 15:11-12 - Jesus said, "It's not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person." Then the disciples came to Him and said, "Did You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

1 Peter 2:7-8 - "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense."

1 Peter 3:15 - In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

v.27 - "take the fish that comes up first. And when you've opened its mouth, you'll find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

Philippians 4:19 - My God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches.