

Children Are Free

Matthew 17:24-27

Intro:

- A. **Catchy titles and illustrations are always welcome to those who speak.**
 - 1. "Children are free" is one of those.
 - 2. May hotel and motels are making such claims n the current vacation season.
- B. **Jesus and His disciples have come to Capernaum.**
 - 1. They are approached by those who collect money for the temple maintenance.
 - 2. They question Peter about Jesus.
 - 3. Our text comes from the answer of Jesus.

I. Their Encounter With The Collectors.

- A. **"...they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?" v.24**
 - 1. tribute money = διδραχμον = a doubly drachma, a Jewish coin worth about 30 cents. This was the yearly tax every Jew was to pay to the temple treasury at Jerusalem.
 - 2. pay = τελω = "to complete, "to pay"
- B. **The basis for paying this tax.**
 - 1. The scriptures taught it.
 - 2. Exodus 30:13, 38:26
 - 3. v.15 - "The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than a half-shekel.

II. The Answer Of Peter And Jesus.

- A. **"He saith yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented Him, saying..." v.25a**
 - 1. yes = ναι = yes, certainly, affirmation
 - 2. prevented = προφθανω = "to anticipate," "to get to the answer or thing to be done before another."
- B. **"What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers" v.25b**

1. custom = τελος = what is paid for public ends, a toll, "a tax on things."
2. tribute = κησος = a poll tax paid by each person taken in a census. A tax on person.
3. children = υιος = "a son", "a male child"
4. stranger = αλλοτριος = "foreigners"

C. **"Peter saith unto him, of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, then are the children free." V.26**

1. strangers = (same as vs.25)
2. free = ελευθερος = "one who can go where he will," "at liberty."
3. Jesus is speaking of Himself. Because He is the Father's son. He has no obligation to pay tribute to support His house. If this included all who are God's children then they too would not be obligated to pay tribute. This would eventually leave the House of God desolate.

III. Jesus Pays Tribute

A. **"Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fist that first cometh up;" v.27**

1. offend = σκανδαλιζω = "to cause to stumble"
2. "But as we do not want to cause difficulty for these people..." - NEB

B. **"...and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money."**

1. piece of money = στατηρ = "a stater" = a coin equal to four drachma. It had a value of 80 cents.
2. This was a silver coin.

C. **"...that take, and give unto them for me and thee."**

1. This coin would pay the tax for Peter and for Jesus.
2. God will always provide when we want to do what is right.

IV. What About The Church.

A. **The example of churches, Macedonian.**

1. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
3. 2 Corinthians 8;11-15

B. **The example of God.**

1. 2 Corinthians 8:9

C. **The example of Jesus.**

1. The cross.