

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Thirty

Finding a Coin in the Mouth of a Fish

Text: Matthew 17:24-27

Introduction:

1. Continue to notice that Jesus emphasizes His coming death throughout this chapter (vs. 22-23).
2. For the first time in a long time, Jesus and His disciples returned to Capernaum.
3. Here, Peter was challenged with an interesting question about his master, Jesus.

I. The Miracle

- A. Peter was questioned as to whether or not Jesus paid taxes.
 1. The tax in question was the Temple tax (Exodus 30:11-16).
 2. This was not a tax paid to Rome; rather, it was for the upkeep of the Temple.
 3. The amount was a half-shekel – equal to two days’ wages.
- B. Thus, he was presented with a dilemma – since Jesus is the Son of God, did He have to pay the temple tax?
- C. Jesus anticipated Peter’s predicament and asked him about the nature of taxes.
 1. Notice that Jesus *prevented* (literally, anticipated or preceded) Peter in speaking.
 2. This was a demonstration of miraculous knowledge in itself.
 3. He asked, “Do kings tax their own children or strangers?”
 4. Of course, their children do not have to pay taxes.
 5. Thus, Jesus – as the Son of God – had divine authority to excuse Himself from the temple tax.
 6. However, if He did not pay the tax He would not be in submission – as a man – to the earthly authority of the Law of Moses.
 7. So, to keep from causing someone to stumble, Jesus paid the tax.
- D. By miraculously providing the money, Jesus again proved His authority and divinity.
 1. Some deny that this miracle ever occurred.
 2. However, it was a miracle of foreknowledge and provision. {Remember Jonah!}
 3. Or, it could have been a miracle of creation, if Jesus placed the coin in the fish’s mouth.

II. The Manifestation

- A. Of course, Jesus again proved His power and deity.
- B. This miracle also emphasizes the true nature of Jesus and how it should not be forgotten.

III. The Message

- A. Jesus willingly submitted Himself to the laws of God, and so should we.
- B. Jesus lived in such a way as to cause no one to stumble, and so should we (cf. 1 Cor. 6:1-6; 8:13; Rom. 14:3, 21; etc.).
- C. God provides for the needs of His followers.
- D. Christians should be the best citizens (Romans 13:1-2; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-18).