



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

St Mary's Cathedral

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

Who Pays? (Matthew 17:24-27)

At the census after the Exodus from Egypt, every Jewish man 20 years and older was required to give a half-shekel as an offering of atonement (Exodus 30:11-16). The money collected was used for the construction of the tent of meeting (Exodus 38:25). While the instructions in Exodus seem to be for a one-off collection, by Jesus' day this had become a regular tax, the money now going to support the temple. Two drachmas were the equivalent of a half-shekel.

Read Matthew 17:24-27

1. Jesus and the disciples are back in Capernaum, Peter's hometown (Matthew 8:5,14). Who confronts Peter? What is their challenge?
2. What lesson for Peter does Jesus draw from earthly rulers (v25-26)?
3. Is Jesus actually required to pay the temple tax? Why/why not?
4. How is the situation resolved by Jesus?
5. ***What can we learn from Jesus here about setting aside our rights? (See also 1 Peter 2:13-17)***

Series Review (Matthew 13-17)

1. Peter and the other disciples have been on quite a journey discovering who Jesus is. Looking back over the chapters we have studied (Matthew 13-17), what has Matthew been showing us about Jesus' identity?
2. Matthew has also been showing us two types of responses to Jesus: opposition or faith. How has your faith in Jesus grown through studying these chapters?
3. Matthew has shown us how to respond to Jesus – with wonder, awe, and praise. Spend time now giving glory to God for who Jesus is and all he has done for us.