



[Matthew 17:24-27](#)

(24) After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" (25) "Yes, he does," he replied.

When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?" (26) "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him.

(27) "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

New International Version

The miracle of the coin found in the fish's mouth ([Matthew 17:24-27](#)) may be among the least dramatic of Christ's miracles, but it is certainly instructive. The context involves the paying of the Temple tax, and not surprisingly, only Matthew, the former tax collector for Rome, reports it. Although he did not collect this particular tax, it still interested him. His account of Christ's life tends to highlight the King and His Kingdom. Why, then, should the King be subject to a tax? Is He not the Son of [God](#), the Heir of all His Father's house?

Coming to Capernaum, the tax collector asks Simon Peter, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?" and Peter replies in the affirmative (verses 24-25). This tax was not a Roman civil tax but a religious one supporting the Temple in Jerusalem. God inaugurated this tax in the wilderness, instructing [Moses](#) to take a half shekel from every male twenty years and older ([Exodus 30:11-16](#)). It provided for the work of the Tabernacle and later of the Temple, including during the time of [Christ](#). This tax was not an evil one per se, helping to cover legitimate costs of the worship of God, but as with almost all taxation, the money was often misused.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: The Coin in the Fish's Mouth](#)

Related Topics:

[Abuse of Authority](#)

[Abuse of Power](#)

[Jesus Christ's Miracles](#)

[Miracles of Christ: Coin in Fish's Mouth](#)

[Taxation](#)

[Temple Tax](#)