



[Matthew 17:24-27](#)

(24) When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the *temple* tax came to Peter and said, 'Does your Teacher not pay the *temple* tax?'

(25) He said, "Yes." And when he had 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?" (26) Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. (27) Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

New King James 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](#)