

I. THE STORY (Mt.17:24-27)

- A. BACK HOME AFTER SOME TIME AWAY** (24; 4:13; see c.15-17)
- B. JEWISH TEMPLE-TAX COLLECTORS VISIT** (24f; unique to Matthew)
- C. PETER: STAYING AT HIS HOME?** (24,25; see 8:14)
- D. POSITIVE INQUIRY, RESPONSE AND ACTION** (24-27; see Rom.13:6,7)
- E. SUPERNATURAL INITIATIVE FOR WORDS** (25; see Jn.1:48f; 2:24f)
- F. CAUSE TO STUMBLE INTO SIN** (27; see Mk.9:42f; Jn.6:61; 1Cor.8:13)
- G. GOVERNMENT & TAXES** (25,26; see 22:17f; Rom.13:6)
- H. SUPERNATURAL PROVISION FOR WORKS** (27; see Gen.1:21,26; Lk.8:25)

II. THE TEMPLE TAX

- A. HALF-SHEKEL= TWO DRACHMA/DENARI: TWO DAYS WAGES PER LABORER**
(Mt.17:24 (& marg.); 20:2; Ex.30:11f)
- B. MOSES & THE TABERNACLE** (Ex.30:11-16; 38:26)
- C. JOASH & THE FIRST TEMPLE** (2Chr.24:6,9; contrast Ezra 6:8; Neh.10:32,33)
- D. ROMANS & RESTRAINTS ON REMITTANCES** (e.g., Valerius Flaccus, Asia, 62 BC)
- E. JOSEPHUS & TENS OF THOUSANDS CONVOY FROM BABYLON** (c.30 AD)
- F. ROMANS & IMITATION FOR PAGAN TEMPLE** (the *Fiscus Judaicus*; after 70AD)

III. THE ROYAL FAMILY & TAXES

- A. RIGHT TO RECEIVE, NOT DUTY TO GIVE** (25,26; see 22:17f; Rom.13:6,7; see 1Sam.8:11f; 17:25)
- B. RIGHT USE OF RIGHTS: SERVE VS. STUMBLE** (27, 18:6 /2Chr24:9,10 w.Ex35:4f,20f; 36:3f,6; 2C.9:7 /1C.9:18,19; 22,23; c.8:9; 10:24,29,31-33 /Mk.10:45; Phil.2:5f /1Pt2:16,17; Gal.5:13,14f; 1Jn2:10)
- C. PROVISION FOR SERVICE** (27; see 7:9f; see Lk.6:38; 2Cor.9:6f)

IV. LIVE FREE IN JESUS!

- A. BECOME ADOPTED CHILDREN IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!** (Mt.18:3; 17:25; see Jn.8:34-36; Rom.8:15,23; 9:4; Gal.4:6; Eph.1:5; see Lk.11:13)
- B. BE FREE FROM ALL ULTIMATE OBLIGATION TO THE KINGS OF THE EARTH!**
(Mt.17:25,26; 22:21; Acts 4:19; see Ex.20:1f; Mt.5:1f)
- C. GIVE THANKS THAT CHURCHES ARE TAX-EXEMPT IN THE U.S.!** (Mt.17:26; see Ezra 1:1; 7:6,etc.; Neh.1:11,etc.; Rom.14:4; 1Pt.2:13f,18f)
- D. USE YOUR FREEDOM AS THE KING'S ADOPTED CHILDREN TO SERVE YOUR NEIGHBORS INCLUDING THE KINGS OF THE EARTH!** (Mt.17:27; see III above)
- E. BE ASSURED OF THE LORD'S PROVISION FOR YOUR SERVICE!** (Mt.17:27; see Gen.22:14; see Lk.6:38; 2Cor.9:6f)
- F. CONSIDER WHETHER THE TEMPLE-TAX PROVIDES A MODEL FOR US!**
(see II above; see Num.18:28; Ex.35:5f; Acts 10:2f; i.e., "general equity")
- G. CONSIDER THE USE OF OUR FREEDOM FOR SERVICE WITH RPM&M!**
(25-27; see III above; see bulletin insert)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)