

The Miracles of Jesus
Pastor Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Presenter

Miracle: "A Happening with Which Human Reasoning Has Yet To Catch Up."

-Dr. William Augustus Jones

Miracle #28 – Miraculous Temple Tax in a Fish's Mouth
Matthew 17:24-27 (KJV)

- Exodus 30:13-16
- Matthew 17:24-27 (Message Bible)

When Jesus and His disciples arrived in Capernaum, the headquarters of Jesus' ministry, the tax collectors came to Peter and asked him if Jesus had paid His taxes. The word "**tribute**" in verse 24 was the assessment collected annually for the support of the temple.

- **Matthew 22:21**

The conjunction "**and**" says that we are obligated to pay the government and pay God. Our taxes are paid to the government. Our tithes are paid to God.

- **Malachi 3:10**

The income we received is not fully our own. A percentage belongs to the government and a percentage belongs to God; Taxes and Tithes. We have yet to learn that the more we give to God the less we have to give to the government. We can reduce the amount we have to give to the government by giving more to God. -----God and not the government. . .

The collectors of this tax were temple officials; the church trustees. Rather than ask for the tax, they asked Peter if Jesus paid taxes. Peter hastily answered the tax collectors with a "**Yes.**" Peter sensed a trap in their question and said "**yes**" in order to avoid the trouble that a different answer might have caused Jesus.

Because Jesus was the Son of God, He was not obligated to pay the temple tax. However, He chose to use this opportunity to prove His divinity to the Roman officials. Instead of offending the temple officials and needlessly upset them, Jesus instructed Peter to pay the temple tax with money provided miraculously. Peter went down to the lake, cast a hood, and pulled in the first fish that bit. Opened its mouth and found a coin; enough to pay both His and Peter's taxes.

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