



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **The King's Omniscience!**

**Matthew 17:24-27**

Message #49 of 80 – S1082

**Sermon given on January 28, 2024**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# **The King's Omniscience!**

***Matthew 17:24-27***

## **Opening Comments**

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 17**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## **Teaching**

- **The King's Omniscience!**
- Matthew's gospel is written from the perspective that Christ Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords.
- It also gives us illustrations and examples of His divine nature.
- One of the things the Lord has ministering to my heart about in this study is how awesome God is.
- You have heard me say more than one that we ought to be filled with awe and wonder whenever we read or think about what Jesus did.
- As we are exposed to the amazing things Jesus did, it is far too easy for us to become so familiar with them that they do not move us to awe and wonder.
- In this study God has been reminding me that I need the childlike faith that sees these things as the amazing things they are.
- Our text for today is another of the amazing displays of who Jesus is – King – the Son of God – our Savior.
- As we go through it, let God's Word fill your heart and mind with a sense of awe that this is the God who died to save you.
- Chapter 17 began with the Transfiguration and the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the high mountain.
- Then we had the healing of the demon-possessed boy.
- And now Jesus makes His way to Capernaum.
- **Matthew 17:24**
- This account is only recorded in Matthew's gospel – the former tax collector.
- 'temple tax' – this is not a civil tax like our income tax.

- This was a religious tax. It was collected to provide for the temple services in Jerusalem.
- It is loosely connected to the tax collected whenever the people were numbered in Exodus 30.
- Over time it was modified to provide for the needs of the temple in Jerusalem and for the Levites.
- They may have been trying to trap Jesus into saying something they could accuse Him of.

- **Matthew 17:25-26**

- Jesus anticipated Peter's question about the temple tax.
- This is an expression of His omniscience.
- God knows everything about everything, including our most secret thoughts (**Psalm 139:1-2**).

**O LORD, You have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup> You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.**

- And rather than being something that freaks me out, it is a source of great peace and comfort.
- Kelly's mother went to be with the Lord on Thursday night.
- At a time like this, your mind and heart are filled with emotions and thoughts that are hard to understand or express.
- In those moments when we feel overwhelmed we can come to Him – Jesus knows – He understands (**Hebrews 4:16**).

**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

- Jesus knows what Peter is going to ask about.
- Kings do not tax their own children.
- Jesus is saying this tax does not apply to Him.
- He is the Son of the Father in Heaven.
- And since the tax is to service the temple for worshipping the Father, the tax does not apply to Him.
- Another interpretation is that Jesus, King of kings is free from taxation and so are His sons, the disciples.
- In either interpretation Jesus is exempt from this tax.
- Jesus is not saying that it was wrong to support the work at the temple, otherwise He wouldn't have paid the tax.

- He is saying that He is exempt from it.
- Jesus would soon go to the cross and make the temple obsolete.
- He was establishing His church as the way people approach God.
- As Christ-followers, we are under no obligation to support the work of the ministry.
- But the New Testament encourages it and ties it directly to our faith.
- The apostle Paul said that if we have benefited in spiritual things from the ministry of the church, we should be willing to share our material things with the church.
- Every week we give people the opportunity to give to the work of the ministry of this church.
- We believe it is an important expression of faith and is an act of worship.
- But we believe if, when, or how much someone gives is between every believer and the Lord.
- Jesus is exempt from the temple tax but then He tells Peter to pay it.
- **Matthew 17:27**
- By paying this tax Jesus was submitting Himself to the ruling authorities.
- There was not a spiritual law at work here.
- It was morally neutral.
- Because it was morally neutral Jesus choose to do what was best for others.
- The world was not ready to receive Him as King, so by paying the tax Jesus kept them from being offended or stumbling, thinking He was despising the temple worship of God.
- Jesus performs a very unusual miracle here.
- Jesus sent Peter out to do something he loved – he sent him fishing.
- How did this miracle work?
- Did Jesus attract a fish to Peter's hook and then miraculously place a coin (of the exact amount needed for both) in its mouth?
- Or maybe God caused someone to drop a coin in the water and caused a fish to take into its mouth but not swallow it, and caused that fish to swim over to Peter's hook and take it.

- So many possibilities. However this miracle is explained, it proves Christ's dominion over all creation.
- God can do what we need when we need it.
- And He is unlimited in how He does it.
- This is just one of many miracles Jesus performed for Peter alone.
- He healed his mother-in-law, helped him to walk on water, and freed him from prison, just to name a few.
- Peter would later write (**1 Peter 5:6-7**).

**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

- God knows you – He called you by name to be one of His children.
- He can be trusted with everything you care about.
- There is no verse 28. What happened?
- Did Peter go fishing? Did he catch a fish?
- Was there a coin in its mouth?
- Yes! How do we know?
- Because Jesus said it, we can trust it (**1 Kings 8:56b**).

**There has not failed one word of all His good promise...**

- Mature faith trusts in the bare word of God.
- We don't need evidence or proof.
- We don't demand witness testimony.
- We simply seek to know what God said and trust that His Word is certain – if God said it – it is! **Warren Wiersbe**

**"If we trust the King, He will meet our needs as we obey His Word."**

- Put yourself in Peter's place.
- Jesus tells Peter to go fishing and he will find a coin in the mouth of the first fish he catches.
- We don't know if anyone else witnessed Peter pulling the coin out of the fish's mouth.
- This miracle may have been for Peter at that moment.
- But then it was also for the hundreds of millions of people who have read this account over the last two-thousand years.
- Jesus displayed two divine traits in this text – omniscience and dominion over creation.

- In the multiplying of the loaves and fishes, Jesus displayed His creative power.
  - Jesus knows you! He knows what you think and how you feel. He knows what you need, just like the Father does (**Matthew 6:8**).
- For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**
- And because He has the power to create and has dominion over all creation, He can meet your need.
  - He might do it with a miracle.
  - Or He might do it by providentially arranging things to work out in your favor.
  - Regardless of how He is going to do it, our part is to believe and obey.
  - For this miracle to happen Peter had to go down to the lake and try to catch a fish.
  - He didn't need to know how Jesus was going to get a coin into the mouth of the fish or how He was going to get it to bite on Peter's line.
  - By faith Peter obeyed and a radical miracle took place.
  - What radical miracle might God want to do in your life, marriage, family, or in whatever place He has put you?
  - Seek God with your whole being – trusting Him with as much of your life as you are able – including the impossible things.
  - And if He tells you to do something strange like catch a fish to get a coin out of its mouth.
  - You don't have to understand it – just do it.
  - God is still working miracles – He is still answering prayers – even hard ones.
  - Believe Him – Trust Him – Obey Him!
  - Let's pray and ask God to do something impossible. **Pray!**
  - Worship Team comes up to play the last song!