

Life In God's Kingdom *a study of Matthew*

"The Christian as Citizen" - Matthew 17:22-27

Points / Comments / Questions:

1. Embrace Jesus!

- **Review Matthew 17:22-23** and reflect on the significance of those verses.
- **Questions:** Why was it important for the disciples to embrace what was going to happen to Jesus. How had they missed it before (e.g. Matthew 16:21-23)? Why is critical for Christians today to embrace the fact that Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the dead?

2. Examine Jesus!

- **Review Matthew 17:24-26 and Exodus 30:11-16** and reflect on what Jesus was saying/teaching in these verses.
- **Questions:** How did Jesus know Peter had already had the discussion he had before Peter told Him? Why did Jesus ask Peter the question He did? What did Jesus mean in v. 26 when He said, "Then the sons are free?" Why was Jesus, more than anyone, exempt from paying the Temple tax? Why did He still do it? What do can we learn from this?

3. Exemplify Jesus!

- **Review Matthew 17:27; Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:9-12** and reflect Jesus' example.
- **Questions:** What did Jesus mean by "not to give an offense/not to cause any to stumble?" Why is it important that we live so as to not cause anyone to stumble? What kind of example did Jesus set by paying the tax, even though He did not have to? Should a believer ever not submit to human authority (e.g. Acts 6:29)? How does a Christian, whose eternal citizenship in heaven, live honorably as a Christian citizen in this temporary world?



Memorize and Meditate-

Memorize: "However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."
—Matthew 17:27

Meditate: "Live your life as an example of Christ, not causing others to stumble and not letting anything bring dishonor the Kingdom of God!"