

# A FISHY TAX

IN VIEW OF APRIL 15TH, TAX DAY DEADLINE, USA

## IN VIEW OF TODAY, APRIL 15TH

In the USA we have a day called TAX DAY. It's the day that our completed tax forms must be sent into the IRS...it's not the greatest day of the year for most Americans...**BUT GOD.**

The story found in Matthew 17:24-27 is a great example of the sovereignty and provision of God. Even though, as we see in these Scriptures, Jesus doesn't really feel like HE (or the sons ie Jews) are required to pay this 'poll tax,' He still complies with the laws of the land. Only Jesus does this in such an awesome, only Jesus way. "Go fishing Peter and bring up the first fish you catch, in that fish you will find the poll tax that will cover both your tax and mine...." (loosely translated). Is anyone else thoroughly AMAZED at this? In the VAST Sea of a trillion (or more) fish and other living creatures, Jesus (God) has 'APPOINTED' a certain fish to be the tool of provision for something as ominous as a TAX that wasn't even really due. Why did Jesus go to such lengths to pay an unfair tax, a fishy tax?...."so that we do not offend them..." Jesus does everything from LOVE. If it's not driven by love, it's not driven by Jesus...hummm. Now let's talk about appointments.

## A p p o i n t m e n t s :

This 'fishy tax' reminds me of the story of Jonah where God 'appoints' a fish to swallow Jonah (Jon.1:17); After God commanded the fish to spit Jonah out on dry land, and Jonah preaches to Ninevah, then God 'appointed a 'plant' to grow to give Jonah shade (4:6); God then 'appoints' a worm to eat the plant (4:7); God appointed a scorching east wind (4:8), etc., and all of this proving that God is both really big and also intimately involved in all the little details to provide for His people and for His plans. GOD IS TOTALLY AND UTTERLY IN CONTROL! From the details to the big picture, our Awesome God has it all in His hands! We really have nothing to fear and nothing to worry about if we take a lesson from what God has already done in His Word. We can trust Him in ALL of it....



How incredibly awesome is God? How detailed, and sovereign is the ONE Whose hand we rest in? Take heart today that we serve a GOD who sees, Who knows, and Who CAN meet all of our needs in supernatural ways if need be...Let's trust Him today, this tax day, to provide for all of our needs according to His riches in Glory in Christ Jesus! Peace IN, Big D

## Matthew 17:24-27

<sup>24</sup> When they came to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?" <sup>25</sup> He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their



sons or from strangers?" <sup>26</sup> When Peter said, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are exempt. <sup>27</sup> "However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in 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 you and Me."