



## DGM Message Summary: A Lesson From A Fish

### Takeaway:

We should aspire to live a life that's not just about us, but about serving others around us. God is not asking for us to do something new, but to change our motivation. When we change our heart, we experience a shift in our lives.

### Scriptural References:

- Matthew 17:24
  - Peter had seen Jesus pay the temple tax before.
    - Seeing what Jesus did was easy. Understanding His actions was rather difficult.
    - Under the Law of Moses, God required three separate tithes, which was equivalent to 23.3% per year (in addition to all the other offerings).
- Matthew 17:25
  - Instead of giving the answer to Peter's question, Jesus posed another question in return (in lieu of the bullying approach to parenting).
  - The problem was Peter spoke in the name of the Lord and gave the wrong answer.
    - Everyone in the ancient world knew members of the royal family didn't pay taxes. Therefore, Jesus shouldn't be paying anything (and Peter didn't understand why He was actually paying).
- Matthew 17:26
  - By helping Peter think out loud, Jesus helped Peter understand his mistakes.
  - Jesus was helping Peter understand that He was the son of the sovereign.
- Matthew 17:27
  - Jesus had every right to reject paying the tax, but he forfeited his rights to avoid confusion (humility at its finest).
    - In spite of Jesus' perfection, He modified His behavior to behave in a way that wouldn't impact those who wouldn't understand.
    - Not only was Jesus sensitive to God, but He was also sensitive to man.
- Matthew 17:28
  - Peter was told to cast a hook and take the fish that comes out first.

- God is not only a God of power, but also a God of order.
  - God assured Peter that there would be a coin in the mouth of the fish that was just enough to pay both of their (Jesus and Peter's) taxes.
  - Ultimately, Peter always put his foot in his mouth, but this fish put the needs of others in his mouth.
- James 2:10
  - The Law of Moses was given as a single unit. Breaking one command was equivalent to shattering a window.
- Romans 3:20
  - No human being could live up to God's perfect standard. That's why God had to become a man (so He could do it for us).
    - Jesus came to fulfill the entire Law of Moses under the new covenant.
  - The law didn't make us better. It simply pointed out our sin.
- Matthew 12:6
  - Jesus is greater than the temple.
- James 4:3
  - When we ask and we don't receive, it's because we ask for the wrong reasons.

#### Key Points:

- Having the ability to do something doesn't necessarily mean you should always do it.
- It's important not to boast in your liberties so you won't cause others to stumble.
  - We sometimes have to sacrifice what we do for the sake of others.
- Just because you're right doesn't mean that you aren't wrong.
  - Many of us are right, but are mean as rattlesnakes.
  - God is holy, right, accurate and true, but he loved the sinner.
- If we are going to be right, we must also be kind.
- Jesus always ministered in community, so if you're going to be like Jesus, you have to be kind and courteous to have a positive impact in the world.
- When you begin to act out of love and consideration of others (or shift your motivation), the gifts will follow.
  - The purpose of the gift is to serve, not to simply have prominence.
- We should be asking for more so that we can give more to others and serve others.
  - How can you be a blessing to others (instead of rehearsing your gripes)?
  - Whose needs are in your mouth other than your own?
- When we obey God, He will make the ordinary extraordinary.
- Many of us miss the main blessing because we don't actually believe God's Word.