

Gospel of Matthew “Love Limits”
Matthew 17:22-27
September 17, 2023

Matthew 17:22-27

22 As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

24 When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the tax?” 25 He said, “Yes.” And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?” 26 And when he said, “From others,” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. 27 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.”

“Does your teacher not pay the tax?”

Our identity forms in different ways.

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Romans 8:15-17

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

The children of the king get a royal exemption.

Biblical freedom is a freedom with a purpose.

Exodus 7:16

16 And you shall say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, “Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness.”’

“However, not to give offense to them...”

1 Peter 2:15-17

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

What are we going to break fellowship over?

1 Corinthians 9:19

19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

Sonship changes our relationship with others.

What you love creates obligations.

The story of the fish signals God's provision when we work to help other's know Jesus.

Exodus 30:15-16

15 The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when you give the Lord's offering to make atonement for your lives. 16 You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before the Lord, so as to make atonement for your lives."

Jesus paid the temple tax for us and I am no longer bound in the same that I was.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His word during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) What identity came with being a son or daughter in your family? Did it come with social privileges or concerns?
- 3.) Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. How does this passage highlight our union and identity in Christ? How can a passage like this change our view of ourselves? What are the practical ways this passage works itself out in our life?
- 4.) Americans place a high value on freedom. How is being free from all obligation and commitments different than Biblical freedom? As you consider our text, what does it mean to be free but not offensive? When is it right to offend?
- 5.) The miracle of the fish is a miracle of provision. Have you ever seen God provide in a special way so that the gospel could be known? How can this miracle encourage you if you set out to obey God's word?
- 6.) How can your Grow Group help one another apply this passage this week?