

PETER'S FISH (passage, story, coin)

in Matthew 17:24-27 **was** / is ...

“...And when he [Peter] had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?” Peter said to Him, “From strangers.” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take **the fish that comes up first**. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”” *(Matthew 17:25-27)*

* * *

a way to

pay the tax without paying it

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

a wonderful

small, personal miracle

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

active

near shore during the day

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

aimed at

devout Jews (17:24)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

appropriate

for Peter, a fisherman

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

both

ordinary and special

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

important but

only in Matthew's Gospel

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

Descriptive



important
regardless
of its identity

impossible to
identify with
certainty



Meditation

possibly a tilapia or a barbel

(A barbel is much like a carp.)

* * *

more for

Peter than for Jesus

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

perfectly

prepared, placed, & timed

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

proof of

Jesus' divine authority

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

somewhat like the

153 fish in John 21:6

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

the only

fish with a special coin

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

to demonstrate

Jesus' omniscience

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

to help

avoid offense (17:27a)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

Directions: after reading through **Matthew 17:24-27** and some articles on fish in the Sea of Galilee, consider and discuss how the fish with the coin in its mouth is described above. **Do you agree with the various points?** — **At the end of the study, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make applications**, thinking about why the Lord used the fish rather than directly paying the temple tax from funds on hand. Also think about why this wonderful passage is in Matthew but not in the other Gospels. Be careful to not favor one point over others for personal reasons rather than for biblical ones. — © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.