

This manuscript is a Summary, for a full expression of this sermon, please download the audio file.

On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the Temple tax?”

“Yes, he does,” Peter replied. Then he went into the house. But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, “What do you think, Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?”

“They tax the people they have conquered,” Peter replied.

“Well, then,” Jesus said, “the citizens are free! However, we don’t want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us.”- Matt 17:24-27

Exodus 30-13-16- Paying the temple tax to purify and make people right with the Lord.

The lens we look through can affect wildly the things we see. From close up microscope to powerful telescopes. An experienced gardener sees a patch of uncultivated land in very different terms to Firefighter. The first may see this as a potential food source to be tilled. The second may see this as an essential fire break to protect the surrounding area.

### Ill- The life of Cats and Dogs

We watch how cats seem to rule the world in which they exist, while a dog seems to obey the pack leader. One gives the impression the world is for them, the others they for the world.

Point- How these animals perceive their surroundings. Cats seem to own everything ( ill Red Dwarf)

Personality types- How the world is seen through

What are we here to do? Why do we exist? What is important in God's economy?

In Jesus incarnation, he took 12 men who the system had passed by and called them to follow him, he formed them, and taught them, he trusted them and left them tasks, and for the 11 who were chosen, they learnt to act together ( community), to reveal what they had discovered, that the King of the Kingdom of Heaven was Jesus, and this news was to be shared with Joy. These disciples lives were an entire act of worship, manifest in missional community.

### **Worship**

Worship God - John Piper, "God is most glorified in me, when I am most satisfied in him"

"True worship is a valuing or a treasuring of God above all things."- Piper

The issue comes not in what John Piper is saying, but in how we express our understanding of this act of worship. Worship is not just songs and not just church services, Jesus didn't come and establish "church services", but He did give a great commission.

"Keep in mind that church membership cannot be the primary aim of evangelism. The gospel is news about God's action and his reign, not his institution. We're not church recruiters. We are ambassadors of the God who reigns. So I would say, make sure the reign of God is central to what you say and do. Let church growth be a secondary or tertiary outcome of our mission. The glory of God should be our primary aim."-Michael Frost

Jesus through his life gave meaning and understanding to these followers to comprehend what the Kingdom of God looked like.

### The Text

What is amazing in this passage is the choice of Jesus to show his power to Peter in such a way. He demonstrates via reason that the temple tax ( a tax defined on purity) was not applicable to him. In homily he offers to pay, but uses the opportunity to reveal to Peter the King's power. Jesus could have made the can come through many means, but choose to speak to the heart of Peter and show him how his life is completely different once viewed through the lens of Jesus.

We need to see the world through the eyes of Jesus, this is discipleship.

One author said "The church must worship so that this spiritual process of transformation happens" - Karina Kreminski(KK)

"Therefore the point of worship is discipleship, this process of transformation. Worship must help the people of God become more like Jesus. **At the end of our gatherings as we worship we must ask 'Did that time together help us to become more like Jesus?'** That has to be our ultimate question. Hirsch says 'Worship is therefore a dangerous act, because to truly encounter the Holy in the act of worship is to change.' Truly this is dangerous and adventurous!"

The danger comes in two areas, the first is we can fall into the trap in which "*Reformation worship can cause believers to intellectualise their faith, keeping them in the posture of a student in a lecture hall, while revival worship can cause believers to emotionalise their faith, keeping them self absorbed as if in a concert hall.*" -KK

The second is that we can think that worship is complete in just songs and prayer, and fail to realise that it needs two other aspects, mission and community.

Missio Dei- “The mission of God’s people is to alert everyone to the universal reign of God through Christ.”

Yet both Missional worship fail to express their true meaning unless joined in community, we are “stronger together”, but more importantly, more whole

"Missional worship must balance the head and the heart and must shake us out of a complacency that comes from an apathetic culture. Mark Labberton in his book *The Dangerous Act of Worship* says:

***Worship turns out to be the dangerous act of waking up to God and to the purposes of God in the world, and then living lives that actually show it.***

### **The lens of three**

To see the correct picture, the whole picture, we must become disciples and see the world through Jesus eyes. "Genuine worship draws us into community and inspires us to mission. Genuine community is worshipful and it is in community that we discern and do mission. Mission is a worshipful response to God and deepens us in community as we do it together. All three aspects must be held together.”-KK

Websites accessed.

[http://www.krusekronicle.com/kruse\\_kronicle/2013/10/church-is-not-worship-community-or-mission-its-all-three.html#.WSOD5DOB0fI](http://www.krusekronicle.com/kruse_kronicle/2013/10/church-is-not-worship-community-or-mission-its-all-three.html#.WSOD5DOB0fI)

<http://karinakreminski.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/what-is-missional-worship.html>