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Devotion for October 25th, 2021

Matthew 17:14-27

Today's reading from Matthew tells of more about Jesus' earthly ministry. How special is it that we have the Gospels full of account after account of how Jesus cared for His people while He walked among them? And what a beautiful witness this gives us to exactly how much He cares for us still today.

At the end of today's reading, the question arises as to whether Jesus pays the typical temple tax required of men during this time. As Jesus is teaching Simon about His place as the Son of God, He also teaches about following the laws of the land so as not to cause offense.

Now touching on the topic of politics and Christianity can often be a touchy one, but I think the example Jesus sets for us both here and other places is an important one. He follows the laws, in so far as they don't interfere with His purpose on earth. He follows earthly authority all the way to an undeserved criminal's death. It's rare that we see Jesus getting exceptionally animated about the laws He finds Himself subjected to, except when they differ from God's Law.

As Christians it is our hope and prayer that all would come to know and value both God's Law and Gospel, so oftentimes it can be disappointing when things in the political realm do not agree with the truths we find in Scripture. But we can take our example here from Jesus, to do our duty and faithfully follow those God has placed in authority so long as we are not being charged to break God's Law.

God's blessings,

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