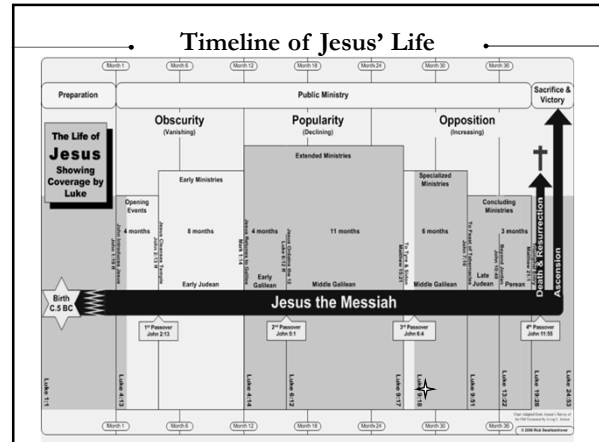


**LESSON 12**  
**THE TRANSFIGURATION**  
AUGUST 5, 2020

**Temple Tax/True Greatness/Stumbling Blocks**  
Matthew 17:24-27;  
Matthew 18:1-14; Mark 9:33-50; Luke 9:46-50



**2<sup>ND</sup> PREDICTION OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION**  
MATTHEW 17:22-23; MARK 9:30-32; LUKE 9:43-45

*"From there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know about it. For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, 'The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.'" (Mark 9:30-31)*

Luke adds before Jesus (2<sup>nd</sup>) declaration: *"Let these words sink into your ears ..."*

- Similar to *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* (Luke 8:8; 14:35; Revelation 2:7, etc.)

Jesus had just told them in Mark 8:31 before Peter began to rebuke the Lord.

**2<sup>ND</sup> PREDICTION OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION**  
MATTHEW 17:22-23; MARK 9:30-32; LUKE 9:43-45

*"But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him."* (Mark 9:31)

Luke records, *"... it was concealed from them so that they might not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this statement."* (9:45)

- How was it *"concealed from them"* so that *"they did not understand"*? (1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3)

Matthew adds: *"... and they were deeply grieved."* (Matthew 17:23) Why?

Compare to Peter's reaction after the first time. (Matthew 16:22; cf. 26:22)

**PAYMENT OF THE TEMPLE TAX**  
MATTHEW 17:24-27

*"When they came to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter and said, 'Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?' He said, 'Yes.'" (Matthew 17:24-25; Exodus 30:12-16; 2 Chronicles 24:6; Nehemiah 10:32)*

- *"the half-shekel"* (ASV), *"the tax"* (ESV), *"the temple tax"* (NKJV)
- Differing from The *"poll tax"* - (Matthew 22:17)

Peter's simple response: *"He said, 'yes'."* (Luke 23:2)

It's our duty. (Matthew 22:15-21; Romans 13:1-7; cf. 1 Peter 2:13-17)

**PAYMENT OF THE TEMPLE TAX**  
MATTHEW 17:24-27

*"Each Israelite paid a half shekel as 'atonement money' for the service of the tabernacle, the morning and evening sacrifice, the incense, wood, shewbread, red heifers, scapegoat, etc. (Ex. 30:13). This became an annual payment on the return from Babylon."* (Fausset's Bible Dictionary)

## PAYMENT OF THE TEMPLE TAX

MATTHEW 17:-24-27

*“And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, ‘What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?’”* (Matthew 17:25)

- The practice at that time was that the burden of taxation was generally placed upon foreigners.

*“Peter said, ‘From strangers.’*” (verse 26)

*“Jesus said to him, ‘Then the sons are exempt.’”*

Jesus, speaking of this religious duty, aligns Himself with *“their sons”* in the previous verse as the Father’s *“beloved Son”* (Matthew 17:5), as one exempt from this religious tax.

## PAYMENT OF THE TEMPLE TAX

MATTHEW 17:-24-27

Jesus continued, *“However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in 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 you and Me.”* (Matthew 17:27)

*“Offend”* – Literally, “cause to stumble.” From *skandalizo* (Matthew 15:12; John 6:61; 1 Peter 2:15)

A lesson: on insistence of our “rights”:  
cf. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24.

A reminder: of who He is (the Son of God) by the means of how the tax was paid.

## TRUE GREATNESS AND STUMBLING BLOCKS

MATTHEW 18:1-14; MARK 9:33-50; LUKE 9:46-50

*“They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, ‘What were you discussing on the way?’”* (Mark 9:33)

- Luke tells us: *“And an argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest.”* (Luke 9:46; cf. Luke 22:24ff)
- *“They kept silent for on the way they had discussed ... which of them was the greatest.”* (Mark 9:34)
- *“Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart ...”* (Luke 9:47)

## TRUE GREATNESS AND STUMBLING BLOCKS

MATTHEW 18:1-14; MARK 9:33-50; LUKE 9:46-50

What was Jesus’ response?

1. *“Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.’”* (Mark 9:35)
    - *“Last”* in what sense? (Philippians 2:3-4)
    - *“Servant of all”* – who does that include?
- If one truly seeks preeminence, it will come through true humility and service.

## TRUE GREATNESS AND STUMBLING BLOCKS

MATTHEW 18:1-14; MARK 9:33-50; LUKE 9:46-50

What was Jesus’ response?

2. *“And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, ‘Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’”* (Matthew 18:2-4)
  - Their entrance into the kingdom was in jeopardy.
  - They needed to be *“converted”* or changed in their perspective of themselves. (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:6)
  - They needed to *“humble”* themselves. (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-8)

## TRUE GREATNESS AND STUMBLING BLOCKS

MATTHEW 18:1-14; MARK 9:33-50; LUKE 9:46-50

Key words Jesus used:

*“Last”*  
*“Servant”*  
*“Converted”*  
*“Humble”*  
*“Become like children”*