

March 14

Jesus Pays the Tolls for Our Souls

Each man shall give a ransom for his soul to Yahweh...half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary...to make atonement for your souls...that it may be a memorial...to make atonement for your souls. – Exodus 30:12-16

[Matthew 17:24-27, Capernaum] When they had come to Capernaum, those who collected the didrachma coins came to Peter, and said, "Doesn't your teacher pay the didrachma?"

He said, "Yes."

When he came into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth

receive toll or tribute? From their children, or from strangers?"

Do the kings of the earth receive toll... from their children?

Peter said to him, "From strangers."

Jesus said to him, "Therefore the children are exempt. But, lest we cause them to stumble, go to

the sea, cast a hook, and take up the first fish that comes up. When you have opened its mouth, you will find a stater coin*. Take that, and give it to them for me and you." [*worth two didrachma coins]

1. What was the significance of when Jesus said, "But"? Who are the children? Strangers?
2. Why this coin-fish miracle? What strange miracle have you seen? Why did God do it?
3. Jesus, you ransomed me so I could be a child of God; help me not to cause to stumble...

