

Handout: Matthew Lesson 18

Structure of Matthew chapter 16:

- I. The Pharisees demand a sign and Jesus responds (verses 1-12)
- II. Jesus the Messiah and Son of God founds His Church (verses 13-20)
- III. The first prediction of the Passion (verses 21-23)
- IV. Jesus states the conditions of discipleship (verses 24-28)

The power to bind and loose gives the Magisterium the authority in Christ's name to:

- To forgive sins and to pronounce penance for sins to reconcile sinners to the Church
- To give authoritative teaching and make judgments concerning correct doctrine
- To discipline the congregation of the faithful when some fall into error by imposing or later lifting the ban of excommunication

See CCC 553, 1441-45

The office of the Davidic Vicar/Prime Minister Eliakim described in Isaiah 22:20-25:

- He wore a garment that identified his high office (verse 21)
- He was a "father" to the people of the kingdom (verse 21)
- As the Vicar of the King, the Davidic chief minister kept the "key of the house of David" (verse 22)
- The key was his sign of authority and gave him the power to "open and shut"—make binding decisions for the good of the kingdom (verse 22)
- He is responsible for the glory of his family—from the least to the greatest member—"all the little dishes, from bowls to jugs" (verse 24)

Chapter 17 is divided into five parts:

- I. The Son of God transfigured (verses 1-8)
- II. Identifying Elijah (verses 9-13)
- III. Healing of a boy possessed by a demon (verses 14-21)
- IV. The second prediction of the Passion (verses 22-23)
- V. Jesus pays the Temple tax (verses 24-27)

Matthew 17:24-27 ~ *When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the didrachma approached Peter and said, "Doesn't your teacher pay the didrachma?" 25 "Yes," he said. When he came into the house, before he had time to speak, Jesus asked him, "What is your opinion, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax? From their sons or from strangers?" 26 When he said "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are exempt. 27 But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth and you will find a stater worth twice the didrachma, give that to them for me and for you." Literal translation (*The Interlinear Bible: Greek-English*, vol. IV, page 51).*

The payment of the didrachma referred to the Temple tax that was a half-shekel paid annually per every Jewish male to support the upkeep of the Jerusalem Temple. Two Greek drachma (didrachma) was the Greek monetary equivalent of the Jewish half-shekel and was equal to about two days' wages for an adult male laborer. A Greek stater was found in the fish (17:27). A stater equaled 4 Greek drachma which equaled 1 Jewish shekel; it was enough to pay the tax for Jesus and Peter.