

Victory Is Coming!

Encouragement for Battle-Wearied Christians

Chapter Five



Matthew 17

Cash flow might be as tight as swimming holes for tadpoles in Tucson’s dry season. Rent’s overdue, hospital bills climb, and the bank account balance is skinnier than a paperclip. You wonder how to keep up when the nest egg falls and shatters at the base of the money tree. These earthly concerns are legitimate and immediate, but there is a financier who audits and has everything under control.

Jesus gave Peter a lesson in bookkeeping while they were in Capernaum. Tax collectors pigeon-holed the disciple alone asking, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?” (Matthew 17:24 NIV).

When Peter confessed his fear, Jesus said to go fishing. “Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours” (Matthew 17:27 NIV).

Alrighty, then, Peter probably thought as he strode toward the nearby Sea of Galilee. If the boss says there’ll be a fish, then there will be. Who am I to question the one who walks on water and talks with Elijah on the mountain?

For reflection

With each encounter with God, you develop more faith and trust. Each time you step out and expect him to work miracles— however he deems appropriate—you see him move in surprising ways. Keep your eyes open to possibilities. Peter had to wonder how one fish could show up on his line with a silver coin inside its mouth. God provides in unexpected ways.