**Taxes**

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Today, when we hear the subject of taxes discussed on every hand, and intermingled with it expressions of fear and burden, the story of the "tribute money" in the seventeenth chapter of Matthew takes on fresh meaning for the student of Christian Science. The truth which Jesus endeavored to teach Peter when he bade him find the tax money in the fish's mouth is just as true, just as practical, today.

An interesting point about this incident is that Jesus saw that Peter's attitude toward the situation must be changed. Perhaps resistance and fear and even resentment needed to be healed. Jesus did not quibble about the amount of the taxes, or argue that he and Peter were strangers in Capernaum, or that the taxes were unjust, or that the government was squandering the money. No, he immediately applied his understanding of the law of supply to a human situation, and he did it promptly, saying to Peter, "Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."

Was not Jesus using this occasion as an opportunity to teach Peter and all mankind that supply is primarily a question of spiritual-mindedness? Was not Jesus indicating that the way to realize our ever-present supply is to be conscious of our at-one-ment with God?

Mortal mind would have us believe that spiritual substance is intangible and unreliable. But Christian Science teaches that the spiritual approach to any problem is always the practical one. An essential basis for the solving of every problem is given by Mrs. Eddy in her simple but profound statement in the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" ([p. 492](http://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=For+right+reasoning+there+should+be+but+one+fact+before+the+thought%2C+namely%2C+spiritual+existence.&book=tfccs.main.sh)), "For right reasoning there should be but one fact before the thought, namely, spiritual existence."

Students of Christian Science need not be overwhelmed with the thought of taxes of any kind. Every demand can be seen as an opportunity to prove that, in proportion to our discernment, God's law of abundant supply will be manifested to us in whatever idea Mind has in store to meet our need. Mrs. Eddy has written in "Miscellaneous Writings" ([p. 307](http://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=God+gives+you+His+spiritual+ideas%2C+and+in+turn%2C+they+give+you+daily+supplies.)), "God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies."

A student of Christian Science was greatly disturbed because she did not have the money to pay the taxes on her home. As the time for payment drew near, she became very resentful about the amount which had been levied, feeling that, in comparison with her neighbors' taxes, it was unjust. Then one day, in a Christian Science Reading Room, she read several articles about "home," and she began to get a glimpse of the spiritual fact about "home." She saw that if "home" is an idea in Mind, it is maintained by God's law of supply. She realized that it was not for her to argue about the amount, but it was her duty to pay human obligations promptly, and God's law of abundant supply would enable her to do this. The fear and resentment vanished and were replaced with confidence and surety. About ten days after that she received a sum of money— more than enough to pay the taxes —from a debt of such long standing that she had forgotten about it. The debtor, who lived in a distant state, had made a journey of fifty miles to obtain her present address. What impelled him to do this? The moral and spiritual forces of Mind enforcing justice and honesty.

The spiritual law of provision is just as applicable in the payment of our present wartime taxes as when Jesus proved it in Capernaum. No matter what material sense may declare to the contrary, God's abundant supply is omnipresent, ready to take care of all legitimate obligations. Creative Mind, divine Love, originates and produces that which meets every human need and obligation. We do not have to fear for our taxes when we discern that, under God's ever-operating law, supply keeps pace with demand.