



**Series:** Unexpected Messiah  
**Passage** Matthew 17:22-27  
**Title:** Removing Offenses  
**Speaker:** Pastor JC Cooper – 1/24/2021

**Discussion Starter** – What are some of the things you have learned about offences from this sermon?

**Discernment on Removing Offenses** (Matthew 17:22-27)

- Why do you think removing offenses is especially difficult for Christians?
- Read Matthew 17:22-23. Why do you think Jesus' telling His death was such a difficult thing for His disciples to comprehend? What was Jesus teaching them here? Read 1 John 2:1-2. In what way does these verses apply to the lesson Jesus is teaching in this passage of Matthew?
- Read Matthew 17:24 and Exodus 30:13-16. What is the significance of the tax collectors coming to Capernaum and speaking with Peter to ask this question about Jesus?
- What did this temple tax of a half-shekel represent and why do you think it was the same amount for both the rich and the poor?
- Read Matthew 17:25. Why do you think Peter answered the temple tax collectors question about Jesus before first conferring with Jesus? How might that have offended Jesus?
- What do we see revealed about Jesus by His ability to anticipate Peter with a question for him to ponder? Why did Jesus choose to ask certain questions as a way of teaching Peter a bigger truth? What benefits are there to this style of teaching as compared to just giving people the answers?
- Read Matthew 17:26. What was Jesus trying to show Peter in the simplicity of this profound question He asked of him? What can we learn from this example?
- After Peter answers Jesus' question, what is the significance of Jesus' response back to Peter? What does this reveal?
- Read Matthew 17:27. In this passage Jesus is teaching Peter that He did not want to offend the temple tax collectors. What are some of the other times in scripture where Jesus does offend people? How do we know when to discern and allow or not to allow our words or actions that might be offensive to other people? Where do we draw the line?
- People who are easily offended, easily offend people. How do we see examples of this truth manifested in our day to day lives? Read Proverbs 18:19 and Proverbs 17:9. What additional insights are gained from these verses?
- We see that Jesus paid the temple tax even though He did not need to. Jesus sacrificed His own rights to love others. What are some examples in your own life where you see you can grow in sacrificing your own rights to love others?
- How does removing offenses bring people to Jesus?