

Worship to Zeal

John 2: 13-22



Key Concept

Jesus has the authority to purify all things because it all belongs to Him.

**John baptizes Jesus
in the Jordan River
(Matt 3:13-17)**

**Jesus cleanses the
temple (John 2:13-22)**

**Jesus calls disciples to follow
Him (John 1:35-51)**

**Jesus performs His first miracle
at the wedding in Cana
(John 2:1-11)**

**Jesus is tempted in
the wilderness
(Luke 4:1-13)**

**Nicodemus visits Jesus at
night (John 3:1-21)**

Coins of the Gospels

SILVER DENARIUS

The denarius was considered a fair day's pay for a common laborer in the first century. Jesus asked to see this coin when asked if it were lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (Matt 22:18).

What one coin could buy:

15 lbs. of wheat
(in a basket).



JUDAS' SILVER

The 30 pieces of silver that Judas took in exchange for betraying Jesus were silver shekels, the equivalent of 120 denarii.



SILVER HALF SHEKEL

The temple tax was one half-shekel per year.

Worth: 2 denarii

What one coin could buy:

A wooden bucket, 15 lbs. of wheat, and a clay oil lamp.



SILVER SHEKEL

Minted in Tyre, the shekel and half-shekel were the only coins accepted for the temple tax in Jesus' time because of the high purity of their silver.

Worth: 4 denarii

What one coin could buy:

A tunic, a liter of olive oil, two 1lb. loaves of bread, and a half-liter of cheap wine.



BRONZE PRUTAH

The bronze prutah was a common coin, worth only 1/64th of a denarius.

What one coin could buy:

1/3 lb. of bread.



BRONZE LEPTON

The widow in Mark 12 gave two lepta coins to the temple, each worth only half a prutah.

What one coin could buy:

A bath at the public bathhouse.

Size comparison





**Greek/Phoenician
Currency: Tyrian shekel**

Roman Currency: Denarius





Greek Drachmas

- **What is a often, an overlooked, glaring fact about the sacrificial animals sold at the temple. The animals were supposed to be taken from the people's own herds (buying = no emotional connection)**
- **What is the location now of the temple since it was destroyed 70AD?**

**If you have accepted Jesus as Savior, your body is now a temple and this story is a metaphor to cleanse it from impurity.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

•What exactly were the people exchanging their money for? Why?

From foreign currency to Tyrian shekels or drachmas

To pay annual Temple tax

Required by all males 20 and over

Half a shekel or two drachmas (= 2 days wages for a laborer)

Considered a temple tax for upkeep/operation

•From where in the Bible are the guidelines specifying this tax?

Exodus 30:12-13

•(T/F) The Greek drachma was replaced with English shillings / sterling as currency in 600 AD?

False – 21st century still in use ~ the euro officially replaced it in Jan 2002.

•Where did Peter get the money to pay the temple tax for him and Jesus?

**From the mouth of a fish
Matthew 17:27**