

pilgrims in this place and we are regularly reminded in the New Testament that our ultimate destination is glory and eternity as in the closing verses of Philippians 3. But while He was here and committed to the Father's will, the Lord Jesus lived as a responsible citizen of the society of which He was a part. He was a revolutionary in the sense of spiritual activity but not in the sense of irresponsibility as a member of a civil order. If that was how He lived, we who are His should use it as a model for ourselves and by responsible living show the wonder of being children of God.

## II. Discussion

### A. Some Key Biblical passages: Matthew 17:24-27; 15:1-3; 21:12; 22:17-22; 23:1-3

The passages taken from Matthew have some parallels but I selected them since Matthew is popularly regarded as the Gospel of the King and this shows how the king behaved. He lives publicly and responsibly. He does not accept improper behavior from the Pharisees as His guide but He does not shoot them...He denounces their wickedness and hypocrisy but does not suggest the crowd lynch them!

### B. Observations:

1. The Lord fulfills the obligations of the state and the constituted authorities. Note the payment of the temple tax (ch. 17) and his later stand before Pilate (Mt. 27). He does not compromise faith or sacrifice anything of His Divine Being.
2. The Lord honored the spiritual heritage of His people. See His identification in Luke 4:16 ff and His deportment before the High Priest in John 18. He points out the errors of those who were corrupting Israel's faith but He does not violate the Word of God in any sense. See the healing of the leper in Mark 1 as an example.
3. The Lord insisted on the practice of truth for Himself and for others. Matthew 21:12, John 2:13, John 8, John 17