



WINNING BATTLES.  
LOSING WARS

CRAIG REES

ALL DUE  
RESPECT...

**Matthew 17:22**  
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When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief. After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?” “Yes, he does,” he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak.



“What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?” “From others,” Peter answered. “Then the children are exempt,” Jesus said to him. “But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. 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 17:22–27

**“But so that we may not cause  
offense...” [v27]**

σκανδαλίζω [skandalizō]

to put a snare (in the way), to cause to  
stumble

**And they took offense at him.**

**Matthew 13:57**

Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

Matthew 15:12



**Why not offend them now?**

In the heat of battle, humility lays the foundation for the effective use of authority.

DON'T STUMBLE  
OUT OF THE BLOCKS

vv24-25a

**EITHER** participate **OR** protest

Avoiding sin is more important than winning debates, even when we are right.



DON'T FORGET  
THE END GAME

vv25b-27

**EITHER** rights **OR** responsibilities

**Participating now provides the best platform for purposeful protest later.**

PUT OTHERS FIRST

VV22-23

The Essenes saw the abuse of the temple system and stepped away, reinterpreting the text to serve the righteous. Jesus saw the abuse of the temple system and stepped up, redirecting temple worship to save the unrighteous.