

~DRACHMA (51)

- A Greek silver coin still in use in the **First Century C.E.**
- Or what woman with ten **drachma** coins, if she loses one drachma coin, does not light a lamp and sweep her house and search carefully until she finds it? (**Luke 15:8**)
- And when she has found it she calls the women who are her friends and neighbors together, saying; Rejoice with me, because I have found the **drachma** coin that I lost. (**Luke 15:9**)
- The Attic **drachma** bore the head of the goddess Athena on one side and an owl on the other side. By the time of Jesus earthly ministry, the **drachma** probably had depreciated to about 3.4 grams (0.109 ounces troy) and hence would be presently evaluated at 65 cents.
- In the **First Century C.E.** the Greeks equated the **drachma** with the **denarius**, but the Roman government officially reckoned the value of the **drachma** at **three fourths** of a **denarius**. The Jews paid an annual temple tax of **two drachmas**, a **didrachma**.
- After they arrived in Capernaum the men collecting the **two drachmas tax** approached Peter and said; Does your teacher not pay the **two drachmas tax**? (**Matthew 17:24**)
- The Greek silver **drachma** is not to be confused with the gold **drachma**, *dar-kemohn'* of the Hebrew Scriptures, a coin generally equated with the Persian daric (8.4 grams)[0.27 ounces troy] \$94.50 according to modern values.
- According to their power they gave gold for the working supplies, sixty-one thousand **drachmas**, and silver, five thousand minas, and a hundred robes of priests. (**Ezra 2:69**)
- And there was a part of the heads of the paternal houses that gave to the work. The Tirshatha himself gave to the treasure a thousand gold **drachmas**, fifty bowls, five hundred and thirty priests robes. (**Nehemiah 7:70**)
- And there were some of the heads of the paternal houses that

gave to the treasure for the work twenty thousand gold **drachmas** and two thousand two hundred silver minas. (Nehemiah 7:71)

- And what the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand gold **drachmas** and two thousand silver minas and sixty-seven priests robes. (Nehemiah 7:72)