

TO HELP US STUDY

1. What town did Jesus and his followers come into? _____
2. Where was it located? _____
3. Who came to Peter? _____
4. What did they ask Peter? _____
5. When Peter came home, what was the first thing Jesus talked to him about? _____
How did Jesus know who Peter had talked to? _____
6. What did Jesus tell Peter to do? _____
7. How much money was Peter supposed to find in the fish? _____
8. Whose taxes were paid with the money? _____
9. Does Jesus want us to pay taxes today? _____
10. What famous saying did Jesus make about taxes later in his life? (Mark 12:17) _____

TO HELP US REMEMBER: *Young ones*—Romans 13:7, "Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes."

Older ones—Romans 13:7

TO CHALLENGE TEEN THOUGHT

In a good commentary or Bible dictionary, find out what the two-drachma tax (half-shekel - RSV) was used for. This is the key to Jesus' statement, "The sons are exempt." What did he mean by this? Explain it on the back of this page.

TIPS FOR TEACHING PARENTS

One major cause of teen crime is a lack of respect of civil (and most other) authority. American homes are failing to instill in their children a healthy respect for the government as an institution of integrity and trustworthiness. Parents who begrudge every cent of taxes they pay, who grumble at every restricting law, and who personally distrust their government's leaders cannot expect their children to feel much respect for governmental authority.

If any code of behavior was important to the first Christians, it was the requirement that Christians be good citizens. Christ set the example. This story from his life teaches more than tax-paying. It encompasses an attitude of subjection to all civil authority—even when we doubt that the control should really be exercised over us. Read the story closely. *Technically* Jesus should not have had to pay taxes. He was tax-exempt. But he paid because of the lawless appearance of not paying.

Through this story you and I can make our school-age children aware of family obligations such as taxes. They are not too young to know that their parents are slaving to provide a house and to fill a cupboard and to pay a heavy tax load. Let's teach our kids to face such realities with a Christian spirit.

FOR ADULT STUDY: Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pt 2:12-17; Ec 10:20; Mt 10:18.