



Daily Reflections

August 8, 2016

Scripture

Matthew 17:22-27

As Jesus and his disciples were gathering in Galilee,
Jesus said to them,

“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men,
and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.”

And they were overwhelmed with grief.

When they came to Capernaum,

the collectors of the temple tax approached Peter and said,

“Does not your teacher pay the temple tax?”

“Yes,” he said.

When he came into the house, before he had time to speak,

Jesus asked him, “What is your opinion, Simon?

From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax?

From their subjects or from foreigners?”

When he said, “From foreigners,” Jesus said to him,

“Then the subjects are exempt.”

But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook,
and take the first fish that comes up.
Open its mouth and you will find a coin worth twice the temple tax.
Give that to them for me and for you.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus did not seek to rebel against Roman rule nor encourage His disciples to do so either. In fact, He taught that they should give both Temple and Caesar their due. However, He would remind them over time that those who wish to be a part of His Father's Kingdom must live as loyal subjects. That means, fidelity to the Gospel and the Commandments.

Food for your Journey

A visitor from Holland was chatting with his American friend and jokingly explained the red, white and blue in the Netherlands flag.

“Our flag symbolizes our taxes,” he said. “We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bill and blue after we pay them.”

“That’s the same with us,” the American said. “Only we see stars, too.”

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, as Your disciple, help me to be faithful to You and Your way.
May I love You above all things. Amen.