

Fishing for money

CHARACTERS: Narrator, JESUS, Peter, tax collectors, fish

PROPS: none (putting a coin in a mouth and laughing could lead to choking)

SETTING: Capernaum

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Matthew 17:24-27

FK reading level: 5.3

NARRATOR: Jesus and his disciples were chillaxing in Capernaum when a bunch of ugly, hairy tax collectors started hassling Peter about paying taxes. They pushed him around some, got up in his face and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the two-drachma tax?”

TAX COLLECTORS: Doesn’t your teacher pay the two-drachma tax?

NARRATOR: Since they were right up in his face he got blasted by bad breath. Peter coughed and gagged and choked a bit before answering because the tax collectors had had garlic bread for lunch. He fell to the ground coughing some more then crawled over to the house where Jesus was staying. Before he could tell Jesus what had happened, Jesus spoke first.

JESUS: What do you think, Peter? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?

NARRATOR: Peter coughed again, struggled to his feet and managed to say “from strangers”

PETER: From strangers.

JESUS: Then the sons are exempt.

NARRATOR: Peter looked puzzled so Jesus clarified.

JESUS: Exempt means they don’t have to pay.

NARRATOR: Peter just nodded while Jesus continued.

JESUS: So that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me.

NARRATOR: Peter followed Jesus’ instructions. He went to the sea and threw in a hook. He took the first fish that came up; and opened its mouth. The fish had fish breath which made Peter choke and gag again. Finally he stopped gagging, managed to pull the coin out of the fish’s mouth and let it swim away. He took the shekel to the tax collectors, being careful to put his sleeve over his mouth so he could avoid their garlic breath. The tax was paid and Peter skedaddled on back to Jesus.