

Monday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Mt 17:22-27): 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?"



Illustration: Pili Piñero

Today we envision an almost surreal situation: man claiming taxes from God. The King of kings paying taxes! Does it make any sense? He has given us everything, even His own life. Would it rather not be up to us to pay tribute to Him?

-Jesus does not go through life pretending to be God. He has become Man and He is consistent: He does what all the rest do. But let us not forget that He is actually God, and that the greatest tribute He paid was his own Blood!