

eXtra Money in Fish

One day Jesus and his disciples were traveling through a place called Capernaum. As they entered the city, they passed men collecting money. They were tax collectors collecting money from every man to pay for things in the temple. As they passed by, one of the tax collectors called out to one of Jesus's disciples named Peter. The tax collector asked Peter if Jesus had to pay taxes. Peter said, "Yes, Jesus does pay taxes."

When Jesus heard Peter's answer, he corrected him. Jesus explained to Peter that he did not have to pay taxes. Jesus said, "A king would not make his own children pay taxes to live in his kingdom. That's the way it is for me. God is my father, so I do not have to pay taxes to be in His house." Jesus knew this answer would upset the tax collectors. Many people were already angry at Jesus because they did not believe he was the Son of God. This would make them even angrier so he said he would pay the tax even though he didn't have to. Jesus didn't have a job or anything to sell to get money. God provided Jesus and the disciples with everything they needed as they traveled. Jesus told Peter to go to the sea and cast out his line. The first fish he caught would have a coin inside its mouth that would be enough to pay the tax.

Peter did just as Jesus told him to do. He went to the sea and cast his line. When he caught a fish, he pulled it ashore and opened its mouth. There, just like Jesus said, he found enough money to pay the tax for Jesus and for himself. God provided exactly what they needed when they needed it.