

Commentary on the Gospel for Mon, Aug 13th 2018

DOES YOUR MASTER PAY THE TEMPLE TAX?

The Jews paid a yearly per capita tax to the Roman Empire. Their harvest was taxed, so was their use of the Roman highways and fishing docks. Scholars estimate that as much as one-third of their income went to their Roman occupiers.

Jesus did not instigate a violent revolt against the Romans. He collaborated when called for — like paying taxes — but was critical of them when necessary.

We also need to discern our relationship with the State — when to cooperate and when to be critical, what to affirm and what to denounce, using the Gospel as our moral compass.

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