

people and threaten to hurt them! Then you'll have more than enough to feed your family! Just this morning I demanded fifteen silver coins from a woman who only owed nine. I've made a lot of money this way. Your family should have the good things they want! Try it, then meet me at our old swimming spot by the Jordan River at noon."

"Maybe you're right, Joseph! It's time I made more money! I'll see you at noon!" As Michael walked back toward Jerusalem, he saw another traveler. "Here's my chance!" he thought.

"Stop! he shouted, "This is a Roman road! If you don't pay me pay me one silver coin, I'll kick you into the ditch!"

"Oh, another phoney Roman tax, is it?" Said the other man. "I'd sooner throw my money into that ditch than give it to you!" He was either very brave, very foolish, or both.

Michael exploded with anger, and slapped him so hard he nearly fell into the ditch. "Pay me now or you won't be taking another step on this or any other Roman road!" he snarled, "And the tax just went up to *two* coins! "

Feeling helpless, the man reached into his pouch and handed over two coins. By the time Michael arrived in Jerusalem, he had collected twenty silver coins from his "tax collecting." Including his army pay, he now had twenty eight silver coins.

When he met Joseph near the river at noon, they saw a man standing in the water. The man was preaching in a powerful voice, saying God wants people to stop doing evil things. He then dunked those who believed him in the river. He said he was *baptizing* them. Michael and Joseph joined the crowd and listened to him.

Later, when they headed back to Jerusalem, they were both soaking wet. And they were pretty sure their incomes were going to shrink.

Look back over the story and try to answer these questions:

1. Out of how much money did Joseph cheat the woman?
2. Where was Joseph and Michael's old swimming spot?
3. If Michael took two silver coins from every traveler he met, how many did he meet?
4. How much pay did he get from the army?
5. Do you think Joseph and Michael were good men? Why or why not?
6. Why do you think they were soaking wet on the way home?
7. Why would their incomes shrink?

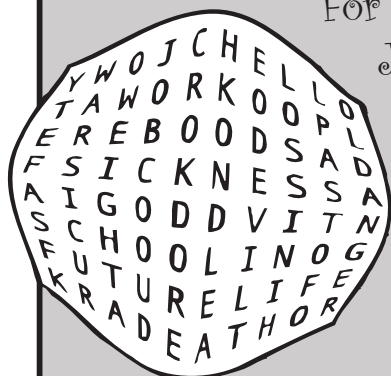
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Advent Week 3, Year C

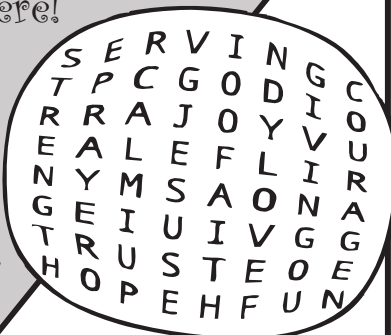
Philippians 4:4-7

December 15, 2024

Always rejoice! Try never to worry;
Give all your cares to God in a hurry;
And let peace rule in your heart, not fear,
For Jesus is coming
Jesus is here!



He worries about everything! How many worries can you find? (There are 18. Some are backwards.)

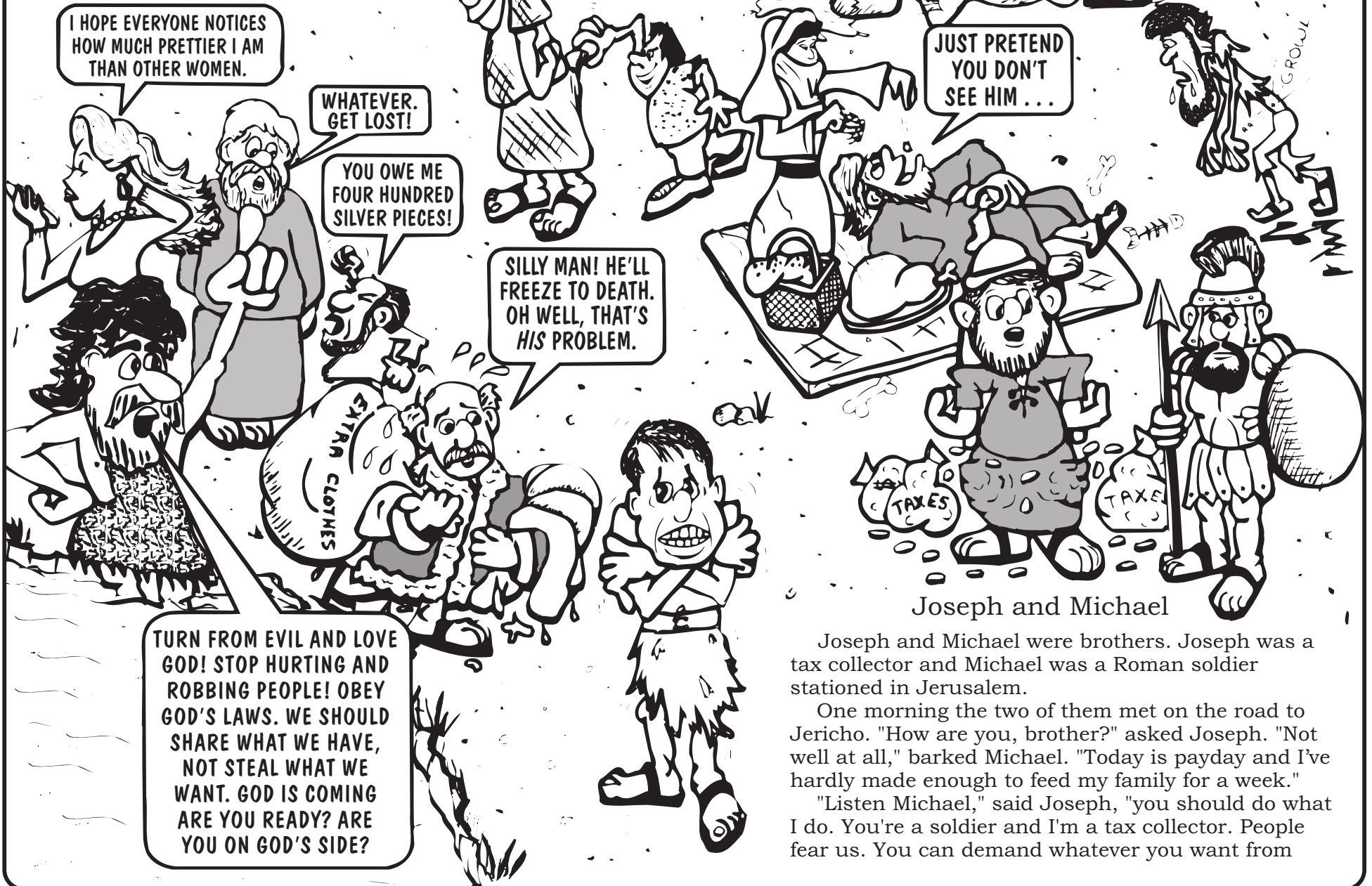


She gives her worries to God. She's thinking of 15 things that help her.



Luke 3 God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. John told people to turn away from evil (repent) and do good.

Write a name for each sin you see in this picture where you see it.



Joseph and Michael

Joseph and Michael were brothers. Joseph was a tax collector and Michael was a Roman soldier stationed in Jerusalem.

One morning the two of them met on the road to Jericho. "How are you, brother?" asked Joseph. "Not well at all," barked Michael. "Today is payday and I've hardly made enough to feed my family for a week."

"Listen Michael," said Joseph, "you should do what I do. You're a soldier and I'm a tax collector. People fear us. You can demand whatever you want from