



Posted on November 29, 2015
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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, December 13, 2015

3rd Sunday in Advent - Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 3:7-18](#)

[**Summary:** *John the Baptist talks to the people about "opposite day" and Jesus*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed repentance,

ASK (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- To get started today, I have a question to ask you.
- Have you ever played the "opposite game" -- where you do the opposite of what someone says?
- For instance, if I told you to go forward on opposite day, what way would you go instead? (backwards)
- And if I told you to go to the left on opposite day, what way would you go instead? (to the right)
- And if I told you to go up (however you might do that) on opposite day, what way would you go instead? (down)

TELL (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- So now you know what John the Baptist is trying to get the people in today's story to do.
- He starts by telling them to repent, which simply means to "turn around."
- And the way he tells them to turn around is by basically doing the OPPOSITE of what they usually do every day
- John tells the people to share their extra stuff instead of *not* sharing their extra stuff
- John tells the tax collectors to take only what they need and *not more* than they need.
- John tells the soldiers to protect the people instead of *scare* the people
- So what do you think – does John the Baptist's opposite day sound pretty good?

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- The problem with opposite day, of course, is that it ends
- But John the Baptist is telling the people that if they like his idea of opposite day, there's someone who knows how to live it all day, every day.
- That person, of course, is Jesus.
- And, when we follow Jesus, he teaches us how to to live John the Baptist's opposite day every day.
- Jesus does this by teaching us how to pay attention to God so that we can receive God's love, mercy and grace
- Then, when we receive God's love, mercy, and grace, we actually have it to share with those who are around us.
- And that's how John the Baptist's opposite day can happen every day.
- This is the good news for today.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who shows us how to receive...

...who shows us how to receive...

...your love, mercy, and grace...

...your love, mercy, and grace...

...so that we can then share...

...so that we can then share...

...your love, mercy and grace with others!

...your love, mercy and grace with others!

Amen