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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for Sunday, December 16, 2018*

*Third Sunday in Advent*

*Lectionary Year C*

**Scripture:** [Luke 3:7-18](#) [ **Summary:** *God's Way Is The Opposite Way* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

**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 during the opposite game, what way would you go instead? (backwards)
- And if I told you to go to the left during the opposite game, what way would you go instead? (to the right)
- And if I told you to go up (however you might do that) during the opposite game, what way would you go instead? (down)

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

- The opposite game will help you to think about what John the Baptist is trying to get the people in today's story to understand.
- He starts by telling them they need to repent, which simply means to "turn around."
- And the way he tells them to turn around is by 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 only take what they need and not take 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 “do the opposite” sound pretty good?

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

- The problem with the opposite game, of course, is that it ends.
- But John the Baptist is telling the people that if they like his idea of “doing the opposite” idea, then there's someone who lives this opposite way every day
- That person, of course, is Jesus.
- Jesus invited others (and us) to follow him and learn how to live God's better way – *all day, every day*.
- To say yes to Jesus' invitation, then, is to learn how to receive God's love, mercy and grace.
- Then, when we receive God's love, mercy, and grace, that means we have it to then share with those who are around us.
- And that's how John the Baptist's opposite day can happen every day.
- That is the good news for today. Let's pray.

## **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!

**Thank you and amen**