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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for Sunday, February 3, 2019*

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

*Lectionary Year C*

**Scripture:** [Luke 4:21-30](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus Walks Away* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

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

- Have you ever stopped doing something because things weren't going well?
- For instance, have you ever been playing a board game where you were doing really well and then after a couple of bad turns you're suddenly in last place?
- If you've had that happen, did you keep playing or did you give up and walk away?
- Or maybe you've played a video game where you were doing really badly and so you stopped playing the game and walked away to do something else?
- If you've ever done that, did that mean you stopped playing ALL board games and ALL video games *forever* or just that game at that time?

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

- I ask about walking away when things aren't going your way because I think it happens to us a lot.
- And, in today's scripture story, we hear that Jesus was having such a bad day, that he walked away, too.
- The day started out nice enough -- he had returned home and was with the people he had known as a child. They were excited about him being back home.
- They were so excited that they asked him to teach them in their worship service.
- But once Jesus actually started teaching in worship, the people quickly became upset with the things he said.
- In fact, they told him to stop.

- And when he did not stop, they tried to force him to stop.
- They even tried to hurt him.
- And that's when Jesus decided that he had had enough and he walked away.

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

- If I had had a day like Jesus did in today's story, I'd definitely want to walk away, too.
- And I think it's good to know that even Jesus had to take moments where he needed to take a break – where he had to walk away from what was happening.
- But, here's the thing to remember: Even though Jesus walked away, Jesus didn't *quit* doing what he had been doing.
- Just like you didn't quit playing board games and video games for forever, Jesus didn't quit sharing God's love, healing, and forgiveness.
- Because Jesus didn't quit after he walked away, we have all these stories of his life and teachings that help *us* to know why and how we can live God's better way just like Jesus did.
- And as we learn to live God's better way, we also learn how to walk away from a bad day without letting it stop us from living and sharing God's better way – just like Jesus did.
- That's 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...**

...who shows us...

**...how to keep choosing your way...**

...how to keep choosing your way...

**...even when we're having a really bad day.**

...even when we're having a really bad day.

**Thank you and amen**