



Posted on December 26, 2014
Written by Nathanael Vissia

This material is the copyrighted property of rfour.org. It is also free. Please use, improve and share this material. But do not ever pay for it, sell it or require any sharing of personal information for it.

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

For more information visit www.rfour.org/childrenstime.html

Written for Sunday, January 11, 2015

1st Sunday in Epiphany

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 1:4-11](#) [**Summary:** *Baptism of Jesus / Jesus is baptized*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you. What do you think you do more times during a whole week – Do you wash your whole body (that is, taking a bath or shower) more or do you wash your hands more? [*If they are trying to be funny, they'll say their bodies. If they are being clever, they'll point out that you wash your hands whenever you take a bath/shower*]
- Why do we wash our hands more often, do you think? [*because hands get dirtier in a shorter amount of time; because it is easier / faster to wash our hands than our whole bodies*]
- Those are good answers. But before we continue, let me be clear that our hands do *not* get dirty because we are using our hands incorrectly; instead, that's just how it works, right? When we use our hands, they they get dirty.
- But what would happen if we chose to never ever wash our hands? We'd be more likely to get sick, right? And we'd be more likely to get others sick, too, don't you think?

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

- I bring this up because in today's scripture reading, Jesus is baptized.
- It is the only time he is baptized.
- But in the following story (which we didn't read today), Jesus finds himself in the wilderness where he has three chances (or temptations) to not pay attention to God
- In that story, we see how Jesus keeps saying verses from the Bible as a way to keep his mind on God.

- These two stories of Jesus help us think about how Jesus pays attention to God.
- First, there's baptism, which is like a bath. It is a rarer and bigger form of how Jesus wants to and chooses to pay attention to God.
- But then life happens and there are chances for Jesus to forget about and lose sight of the ways he wants to pay attention to God.
- When that happens, there are everyday, even hourly, actions that we see Jesus choose. These actions are like washing our hands. They happen often, but are pretty easy and quick to do.
- For instance, in the story after his baptism, Jesus uses scripture as a way to keep paying attention to God.
- In plenty of other stories, we see Jesus choose to pray as a way to pay attention to God.
- In still other stories, we see how Jesus attends worship as a way to pay attention to God.
- And because Jesus keeps making these choices to pay attention to God, he is then better able to hear and see the words, love and healing that God is offering to him and to the people that are around him.

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

- And guess what? We can choose to pay attention to God in the same ways that Jesus did.
- In fact, that's mostly what Jesus does during his ministry: He teaches his disciples how to pay attention to God in the same ways that he did.
- When we learn to and choose to do the actions that help us pay attention to God, then we will have hands and bodies that share God's healing, love, and words of hope, with those around us, 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 pay attention to you...

...how to pay attention to you...

...so that we can better share...

...so that we can better share...

...your love, hope and words...

...your love, hope and words...

...with those around us.

...with those around us.

Amen