



Posted on February 21, 2015
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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, March 8, 2015

3rd Sunday of Lent

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [John 2:13-22](#) [**Summary:** *Jesus clears out the Temple*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Let's talk about something that's a little bit gross (alright!)
- Have you ever had a cold or had allergies where your nose was all stuffed up and you had to breathe through your mouth? (yes!)
- Do you like that – being all stuffed up? (no!)
- What do you do to "unstuff" your nose? (blow my nose! take medicine!)
- Why do you do take medicine AND blow your nose? (gotta do whatever helps, do whatever makes things better)
- Would someone else, usually a parent, give you medicine to take? (yes)
- And at least in the past, maybe when you were younger, would a parent help you blow your nose by putting a tissue to your nose and telling you to blow your nose?
- So when a parent gave you medicine and helped you blow your nose, that person was helping you get your breathing all cleared up, right?

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

- In today's scripture story, Jesus is starting his life's work (which we might call his "ministry").
- What Jesus is going to do during his ministry is teach people how to better pay attention to God.
- Jesus is also going to share God's healing love with the people around him.

- One way to think about what Jesus was going to do, then, is to say that Jesus was going to clear things up.
- Jesus was going to clear up people's confusion about God and Jesus was going to help people's sicknesses get cleared up.
- So in today's scripture story, we hear about one place that needs to get cleared up right away.
- That place was the Temple.
- So in today's story, we hear that Jesus went and cleared the Temple out.
- There were all these things in the Temple that were stuffing it up, that were keeping the people from being able to pay attention to God – so Jesus went and cleared it out.
- It's sort of like Jesus held up a tissue to the Temple and said, "Temple, you are TOO STUFFED UP! You need to blow your nose!"

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

- Sometimes, our lives get stuffed up, just like the Temple got stuffed up.
- And when that happens, we will have a harder time paying attention to God.
- This is a lot like when our noses are stuffed up, we have a harder time breathing.
- But, what we are reminded of in today's story is, if we invite Jesus into our lives, then Jesus can help us get cleared up, just like he cleared up the Temple.
- This is one of the ways that Jesus helps us to better pay attention to God.
- And 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 helps us clear up...

...who helps us clear up...

...our stuffed up lives...

...our stuffed up lives...

...that keep us...

...that keep us...

...from better paying attention to you.

...from better paying attention to you.

Amen