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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, November 1, 2015

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 12:28-34](#) [**Summary:** *The most important way to pay attention to God.*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

ASK (a.k.a *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- Sometimes it's a good thing to re-introduce ourselves.
- So let's do that today. I'm going to tell you my name and then, to save time, I want all of you to tell me your own name all at the same time.
- Just say your name nice and loud after I ask you for your name. And congregation – you're welcome to join in as well
- Ready?
- Hi, my name is [say your name]. And what's your name? [*point at the kids and congregation – garbled cacophony ensues*]
- OK – let's see if I heard you correctly
- [*point at an area of kids and be sure to use names that none of the kids have for the following line*] I think someone over here said their name was Sue and over here was a Luke Skywalker and I think someone over here said Pastor [*name of pastor preaching that day*]
- How'd I do? (*terrible!*)
- What? I did? Well, that's surprising! Why do you think I got so many names wrong? (*because we were all talking at the same time*)
- You know – it WAS pretty loud, there, for a moment when you all said your names at the same time. What do you think would've worked better? (*let each person take a turn at saying their name*).

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- So in today's scripture story, Jesus and another teacher spoke with each other about the most important thing we can do to help us pay attention to God.
- They agreed that the most important thing to paying attention to God is to "Listen to the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength."
- Because of this answer, I was thinking about how we can best listen to God when life is so noisy.
- I mean, just a few minutes ago, it was so noisy I couldn't even hear your names. If life is that noisy, how am I going to be able to listen to God?

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

- Thankfully, there are a number of stories of Jesus listening to God that show us how we too can listen to God in a noisy and busy life.
- And what we see Jesus do over and over again is find a quiet place and make time for prayer.
- In other words, Jesus keeps giving God a turn to speak, just like I should've given you a turn to share your name, earlier on.
- For us, this might look like making time in the morning with your mom or dad to pray before the day starts or maybe at night before bedtime.
- When we do this, then we're giving God a turn to speak, just like Jesus did 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 shows us...

...who shows us...

...how to give you...

...how to give you...

...a turn for speaking...

...a turn for speaking...

...in our noisy lives.

...in our noisy lives.

Amen