



Posted on September 28, 2017
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, October 22, 2017

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 22:15-22](#) [**Summary:** *Made In The Image Of God*]

Supplies Needed: *No supplies needed*

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever gone to a friend's house or gone to school and while you were there, some of your things got mixed up with someone else's things and then it was hard to tell what things belonged to what person?
- Even if you haven't had that happen to you, what do you think are some good ways to keep your things from getting mixed up with someone else's things? (all sorts of answers could be given here – the one to look for is “put your name or initials on your things”)
- That's right – you'll be able to tell which things are yours if you put your name on them before you go to school or a friend's house.
- And when you do this, when you put your name on your things, then your things don't get mixed up and maybe taken by someone else.

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

- So in today's scripture story, the Pharisees (religious leaders and teachers of the Israelites) are mixed up, too.
- And we know this because even though they are the religious leaders, they are trying to trick Jesus with a question.
- The reason the Pharisees are trying to trick Jesus is because they can't understand that they *and* Jesus both belong to God.
- But Jesus is not fooled by their trick question because Jesus is not mixed up like the Pharisees are.

- And because Jesus isn't mixed up, Jesus gives a really smart answer to their question.
- He tells them, "Give to Caesar (the ruler of Rome) what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's."
- At first we might think that that's a weird answer to ANY question.
- But this is why we first talked about how we can tell something belongs to us.
- Do you remember what we said is one way that we show something belongs to us? (yes, by putting your name on it!)
- Well, God did something even better than putting God's name on us -- God put God's *image* on us.
- In another Bible story, that the Pharisees would have known very well, we are told that we are made in the image of God.
- So Jesus, with his answer, is reminding the Pharisees that they AND Jesus both belong to God.
- And if the Pharisees remembered this, then they wouldn't have been all mixed up in the first place and trying to trick Jesus.

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

- The good news for today is that you, me, everyone in the congregation, Jesus, the Pharisees, and everyone else in the world are all made in the image of God
- One of the reasons we are made in the image of God is to remind us that we belong to God.
- And if we can remember that *all of us* belong to God, then we won't get all mixed up like the Pharisees did.
- Instead, we'll be clear, just like Jesus was, about who we belong to and who everyone else belongs to as well: To God.
- 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 reminds us...

...who reminds us...

...that we belong to you

...that we belong to you

...which helps us from getting all mixed up

...which helps us from getting all mixed up

Amen