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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, October 23, 2016

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 18:9-14](#) [Summary: *Parable of the Two Pray-ers*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies are needed

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

- Good morning!
- I'd like to tell you a brief story and then ask you a few questions about it.
- There once were two girls and neither one of them could play soccer. They were awful at it.
- But Girl #1 thought she COULD play soccer and that she could play it well.
- She'd walk around talking about how she was the best soccer player in the world and how she was better than everyone else and no one knew soccer better than she did. She would say that she was so good that she didn't even need to practice. She was so good she didn't even need teammates.
- Girl #2 on the other hand, knew she didn't know how to play soccer.
- But she wanted to learn.
- So she asked other people how to play. She went to practice. She listened to the coach and ran drills.
- That's the story I wanted to tell you.
- So, my question to you: Who do you think becomes the better soccer player? Girl #1 who thinks she already knows how to play soccer or Girl #2 who wants to learn how to play soccer? (Girl #2!)
- And why do you think Girl #2 is going to become the better soccer player? (because she wants to learn instead of thinking she already knows it all)

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

- So in today's scripture story, Jesus tells a story just like the one I told you.
- But instead of the story being about girls who don't know how to play soccer, Jesus tells a story about two men who don't know how to live God's better way of life.
- But that doesn't stop one of the men from *thinking* that he knows how.
- And because that man thinks he knows how to live God's way, he tells God all the time in his praying that he's super-great at life and is so much better at life than everyone else – just like the first girl thought she knew all there was to know about soccer.
- The other man, though, tells God, "I need help. I don't know what I'm doing with my life – help me to live it your better way" – just like the second girl was always asking and trying to learn more about soccer.
- So...who, of the two men, do you think, will God be able to help live God's better way? (the 2nd man)
- Why? (because he wants to learn instead of thinking he already knows it all)

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

- Very good! You just said one of the things that Jesus wants us to understand about this story that he told.
- When we stop thinking we're so good at something and instead ask God for help, then we will be able to learn and get better at it.
- And, the things we then learn about God's better way of life, we can share with the people around us.
- And that is the good news for today!
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Please help us to remember...

Please help us to remember...

...that we don't know it all...

...that we don't know it all...

...and to then ask for and listen...

...and to then ask for and listen...

...for your help.

...for your help.

Thank you and Amen