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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, September 25, 2016

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 16:19-31](#) [**Summary:** *Parable Of The Rich Man And Lazarus*]

Supplies Needed

- A cup with a lid, preferably a lid that does not allow liquid into it very easily, like a sippy-cup or maybe a fast-food cup with the type of lid for straws.
- Have the cup filled with water.
- Also, have a pitcher and have it filled with water (you'll use it twice)
- Finally, have a glass baking pan (like a casserole-type glass dish or aluminum baking pan) for the water to spill into.

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

- Good morning!
- [*Show cup without the lid on*] Can you tell me what this is? (A cup!)
- [*Tip cup for kids to see inside of it*] And what is inside the cup? (Liquid! Water!)
- So let's say this is your cup and you're worried about the cup tipping over and spilling the water. What might you do to keep the cup from spilling? (Be very very careful! Put it somewhere safe! Put a lid on it!)
- [*If the kids don't say, "Put a lid on it," say, "Those are all very good answers. Another answer to consider is putting a lid on top of the cup"*]
- [*Put lid on cup*] Let's see if a lid helps stop the water from spilling from this cup [*turn cup upside down – maybe shake it a little bit*]
- What do you think? Did the lid help reduce the spilling? (Yes)
- But you know what? There's one problem with putting a lid on a cup.
- Let's say you want to put more water in the cup... [*pour water from pitcher on to the top of the lid-ded cup – and let the baking pan catch the water*]

- What happens when you try to put more water into a lidded cup?
- That's right! The water doesn't get in. You have to take the lid off first.
- And that's a very important thing to remember about a lid: Not only does it do a great job of keeping liquid IN a cup, it also does a great job of keeping liquid OUT of a cup.

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

- So life, our lives, can often seem just like this cup.
- There are things in our lives that we care so much about that we put lids on it to help us keep from losing those things from our lives.
- And once when we put those lids in place, we often find it difficult to take those lids off again – and that reduces the ability to ADD and RECEIVE more to our lives.
- In today's scripture story, Jesus tells a story that helps us think about what a life with a lid on it looks like.
- Jesus tells this story of a rich man who cared so much about the things in his life that he had a very tight lid on his life so that those things couldn't spill out and be lost.
- He wouldn't remove that lid for anyone or anything.
- He wouldn't even let a few scraps of food escape from his life so that a poor and sick man named Lazarus could eat.
- Later on, once the rich man realized the mistake he had made by having such a tight lid on his life, he wanted to send a messenger to tell his brothers to not live with the same type of tight lid on their lives as he had.
- But the messenger told the rich man that it was too late: his brothers' lids were on so tight that they couldn't hear the rich man's message.

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

- The good news for today is that God made us to live lives without putting on lids.
- God made us so that we could share with others quickly and easily [*while you are speaking, take the lid off the cup and tip its contents of water into the glass / aluminum baking dish*]
- And, God made us so that we can be refilled quickly and easily, too ... [*start refilling the cup with the pitcher*]...
- ... we are made to be easily refilled with God's good and abundant gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, belonging and forgiveness.
- And, then, we are ready to share with others again [*pour water into baking pan and then fill up the cup again using the pitcher*].

- See how well that works when we don't have a lid on?
- And that's the very good news for today.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for this life...

Thank you for this life...

...and all that is in it.

...and all that is in it.

Help us to receive your good gifts...

Help us to receive your good gifts...

...and then share them with those around us.

...and then share them with those around us.

Thank you and Amen