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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, September 27, 2015

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 9:38-50](#) [**Summary:** *How to not trip and fall when walking God's way.*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Anyone here remember what it was like when you were learning how to walk?
- No?
- Even if you can't remember, do you think you got it right the first time?
- Do you think you fell down a few times?
- At *least* a few times, right?
- You fell down because learning to walk is difficult.
- Which is why parents help us with it at first. This is why they hold our hands and steady us by keeping a hand on our back or a hand under the elbow while we learn.
- This is very helpful of them. But can you imagine if they kept pushing you down while you were learning to walk – that every time you tried to take a step, they just pushed you over?
- If that had happened, it may have stopped trying to walk and you'd still be crawling around today.
- That'd be a pretty mean thing to have happen, don't you think?

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

- Well, in today's scripture story, Jesus is telling his disciples that learning to pay attention to God is just as difficult as learning to walk.
- And, by no means, should the disciples do anything to others or themselves that makes paying attention to God even *more* difficult to learn.

- Even though Jesus uses some weird language in today's passage, this is what he's saying in today's passage:
 - If you see someone helping another person pay attention to God, don't stop them.
 - If you know someone that is learning to pay attention to God, don't make it harder for them.
 - Don't make it harder for yourself to pay attention to God.

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

- Jesus was really good at showing and teaching us how to pay attention to God.
- He also knew that there were things that could make paying attention to God a harder thing to do.
- So, just like your parents helped you learn how to walk, Jesus taught his disciples how to make it easier for others to learn how to pay attention to God.
- And the Good News for today is that we can do the same thing as Jesus had his disciples do - we can make it easier for others to pay attention to God, too.
- And when we do that, then we're helping Jesus teach others about how to pay attention 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 teaches and shows us...

...who teaches and shows us...

...how to pay attention to you.

...how to pay attention to you.

Help us to do...

Help us to do...

...as Jesus taught us.

...as Jesus taught us.

Thank you and amen