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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, August 4, 2019

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year C

**Scripture:** [Luke 12:13-21](#) [ **Summary:** *Distraction and the Parable of the Rich Man* ]

**Supplies Needed:** A smart phone or tablet (doesn't need to be on or charged)

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever been watching TV or playing a video game when someone, like a brother, sister or parent starts talking to you?
- Maybe they ask you a question but then you tell them about something you just saw on the screen that has *nothing* to do with what the other person just asked you.
- Just in case you don't know what I mean, let's do the following activity.
- Whenever I point at all of you, I want all of you to say, "What do you want for dinner?"
- And then we're going to pretend that I'm watching TV or playing a video game – and we'll see what I say.
- Remember, every time I point at you, say, "What do you want for dinner."
- Ready?
- *[Look at your phone/tablet and act like you are enjoying whatever is playing on it]*
- *[Point at the kids and help them say their line if they need help]*
- Say, "Oh, I'm glad you're here – watch what happens when the purple bird eats the green barrel!"
- *[Point at the kids again and help them say their line if they need help]*
- Say, "Oh! Did you see those tennis shoes blow up!?"
- *[Point at the kids again and help them say their line if they need help]*
- Say, "I know! This IS the best movie ever!"
- *[Put the phone/tablet away and thank the kids for saying their line]*
- What do you think – did I ever answer your question? (No!)

- Why do you think I didn't answer your question? (Because you weren't listening; because you were paying attention to something else)
- Right – I wasn't able to pay attention to two things at the same time.
- We're not very good at paying attention to more than one thing at a time – which is why the words we say sometimes don't go along with what the other person said to us.
- When we don't pay attention to what was being said, we sometimes call that "being distracted."

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

- I bring this up, because in today's scripture story, someone does the same thing to Jesus.
- Jesus is busy teaching the people about who God is and about God's better way for us to live when some guy yells out from the crowd.
- This guy is like, "Hey Jesus! Over here! I have a really REALLY important issue. I need you to tell my brother to share the family's money with me."
- This, of course, is *not* what Jesus was talking about.
- So Jesus says to the man, "That's not my job."
- But Jesus is always willing to do some teaching.
- So he tells this distracted man a story about distraction.
- Jesus tells a story about a different guy who cares so much about his money that he can't think about anything else.
- And because this man can think of nothing but money, he then spends his entire life being distracted by that money.

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

- Jesus shared the Good News about God's better way to live to the people around him *all* of the time.
- But, just like the rich man was distracted, there were people, like the man in the crowd who were distracted and didn't listen to what Jesus had to say.
- The same thing is true for us, today.
- There are many things that can distract us, like purple birds, green barrels, and exploding tennis shoes.
- But the good news is that *Jesus* doesn't get distracted and keeps reminding and teaching us of the good news about God's better way to live.
- And when we focus on what Jesus is saying, we are then able to receive and then share God's love, joy, and forgiveness with those who are around us.
- 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 shares the Good News about you.**

**...who shares the Good News about you.**

**Please help us to not be distracted...**

**Please help us to not be distracted...**

**...so that we can learn more about you.**

**...so that we can learn more about you.**

**Thank you and Amen**