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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, August 14, 2016

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 12:49-56](#) [**Summary:** *Jesus is not an argument*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed, but it'll be good to talk to a child volunteer ahead of time to let them know how s/he can help you during the children's message

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

- Good morning!
- Can you tell me what your favorite sport is?
- *[Let just one child answer – choose a more brash child who you have a good relationship with, who you spoke with ahead of time to let him/her know that s/he should not let you change his/her mind.]*
- Thank you for sharing, but I hate to tell you that even though that ____ is your favorite sport, it's not the BEST sport. See, the best sport is [insert a sport here that was not named by the child] – which is MY favorite sport.
- Here's why my favorite sport is better than your favorite sport: *[at this point say a few things about why the sport you picked is better. It is preferable and recommended to NOT say disparaging things about the sport the child chose, even if it's soccer.]*
- So it's really good that I found out what your favorite sport is because now I can save you from a life of sporting frustration. You really need to change your favorite sport from your favorite sport to MY favorite sport.
- So, what do you think: Have you changed your mind? Do you have a new favorite sport?
- *[Child volunteer says, "No."]*
- What do you mean "No?" I just shared with you all these things about why my favorite sport is better than your favorite sport. How can you resist such logic and reason?!?
- *[Let child have last word, hopefully something like, "Sorry. I'm not changing my mind. Because my favorite sport is better than yours.]*

- So...isn't it strange that we're willing to get in an argument about which sport is better?
- I mean – what does it matter who likes what sport? Why do you think we argue about things like this?
- That's right! Because we want to believe that the things we like are the best things. We don't want to like things that are less than the best thing, right?

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

- So, in today's scripture story, Jesus is telling his disciples that people are going to argue against him and what he's teaching.
- Jesus tells them that brothers and sisters will argue about him
- That moms and dads will disagree about him
- That people will disagree about whether God's better way to live is actually the better way to live.
- And the people will disagree about Jesus for the same reason that you and I disagreed about what sport is better: People want to believe that what they do and like is the best thing.
- So if someone isn't choosing to live God's better way as Jesus teaches it, then they might want to argue or fight about what the better way to live looks like.

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

- But, **WE** (you, me and all of us [motion to the congregation]) don't have to have that argument.
- Because, it is NOT our job to convince or argue with other people about whether God's better way is better or not for *them*.
- Our job is to follow Jesus, learn how to live God's better way and then actually **LIVE** God's better way.
- And this is the good news for today – as we live God's better way, then instead of arguing with other people, we can share with others the *goodness* of God's better way.
- And that's way better than arguing, isn't it?
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,
Dear God,

Help us to learn from Jesus...

Help us to learn from Jesus...

...how to live your better way...

...how to live your better way...

...so that we can actually live it...

...so that we can actually live it...

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

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

Thank you and Amen