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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, August 18, 2019

Tenth 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.
- 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?
- That's the good news for today.
- 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 live it...**  
**...so that we can live it...**

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

**Thank you and Amen**