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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, August 28, 2016

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary Year C

**Scripture:** [Luke 14:1, 7-14](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus Doesn't Need The Seat of Honor* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever heard of or seen a dog or a cat chase its own tail?
- Did you think it was funny? Why did you think it was funny?
- Because they just go around and around and around in circles?
- Because its kind of cute?
- Because they are chasing something they already have? [ **be sure to say this one yourself, if one of the kids do not say it** ]
- You're right, that is silly.
- But what if that's all that cat or dog did was chase their tail, every minute, every hour, every day of their entire life!?
- Then it'd stop being funny, because they're spending their whole life chasing something they already have! That's kind of sad, really

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

- In today's scripture story, the Pharisees are watching Jesus very carefully to see how close Jesus will sit to the person who is having everyone over for the dinner.
- This person who is having everyone over is called the host.
- The closer Jesus sits to the host, the more highly Jesus would be telling everyone that he, Jesus, thinks of himself.

- Think of it like a race: The closer you sit to the host, the closer you are to winning the race.
- But Jesus doesn't need to win a race or sit in the best seat.
- And then, Jesus tells the Pharisees why they don't need to win the race or care about it.
- Jesus basically tells them, "Why do you care about getting first place to prove that you are important? You are chasing what you *already have*. God already likes and loves and honors and respects you and thinks you are important.

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

- What Jesus tells the Pharisees is a good thing for us to remember for ourselves as well.
- God is already offering us God's love, respect, honor and glory, which means we don't need to chase after it or try to get it from other people.
- We don't need to be like the dog or cat that chases its tail all the time.
- Instead, we can receive these gifts of love, respect, honor and glory from God and then share them with the people around us who don't yet know that God loves, honors and respects them, too.
- And that is the good news for today
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer...

## **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

Dear God,

**Help us to receive...**

Help us to receive...

**...your love, respect, honor and glory...**

...your love, respect, honor and glory...

**...so that we don't need to chase it...**

...so that we don't need to chase it...

**...and can instead share it...**

...and can instead share it...

**...with those around us.**

...with those around us.

**Thank you and Amen**