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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for Sunday, January 31, 2015*

*Epiphany – 4th Sunday after Epiphany – Lectionary Year C*

**Scripture:** [Luke 4:21-30](#) [ **Summary:** *Listening to God can reduce fighting* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies are needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever had someone not listen to you?
- Yes – you have? But someone not listening to you can happen in different ways, right?
- Maybe you said something and the other person simply didn't hear you -- that's one type of not listening.
- But maybe you said something and the other person heard you, but then IGNORED you. That's another type of not-listening.
- Let's think a little bit more about what that type of not listening might look like.
- Think of a brother or sister or a friend for minute.
- Then, think of how they might be playing a game or with a toy that's yours that they aren't supposed to be using.
- And you say, "Hey, that's my toy -- can I have it back?"
- And they say, "Just a minute. I'm not done."
- They obviously heard you, right?
- But they didn't act on what you said -- they just kept doing exactly what they had been doing before you said anything.
- And at that point, you might get into an argument, right?

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

- Well, guess what? Jesus knows exactly what it's like to have that type of thing happen
- In today's scripture story, we hear that Jesus is talking to the people in his hometown.
- This means some family members were probably there and probably a friend or two as well.
- And Jesus is telling them some things they don't want to hear.
- He's telling them how listening to God will lead to good things, but that they mostly do NOT listen to God.
- But instead of trying to figure out how they could do to listen to God better, Jesus' friends and neighbors get mad at him and try to have a fight with him.
- They even push him around and try to hurt him.
- But the story ends because Jesus walks away from the fight

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

- So in both our example of you and a friend arguing and in the scripture story, we see an argument take place because someone was NOT listening.
- The reason for this arguing is because the people kept doing exactly what they had been doing before any words were spoken.
- But, we can learn from their mistakes.
- We can choose to listen FOR God's words and then ACT on those words instead of arguing against them.
- And when we listen for God's words and act on them, then we will be part of the promises that Jesus talks about in today's story.
- We will help share God's words, healing love, and mercy with others -- which is far better than fighting with others.
- And that's the good news for today
- 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 us ...**

...who teaches us...

**...how to listen to you...**

...how to listen to you...

**...so that we can then share...**

...so that we can then share...

**...your words, love, and mercy with others...**

...your words, love, and mercy with others...

**...with others.**

...with others.

**Amen**