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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, July 2, 2017

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 10:40-42](#) [**Summary:** *God's Gift*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Here's an easy question for you (I think)...What is a gift? (something someone gives to someone else)
- And...do you like getting gifts? (yes)
- When do you usually receive gifts? (Birthdays and Christmas, usually)
- Are they sometimes wrapped up?
- And what do you have to do to actually receive the gift? (need to actually take it; sometimes need to unwrap it; sometimes need to set it up a little bit; need to actually use it)
- Keep this gift idea in mind because we're going to come back to it in a little bit.

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

- In Jesus' time, people who shared God's love, healing, and words were called "prophets."
- And, in today's scripture story, Jesus is telling his disciples that it would be good to welcome prophets (including Jesus) into their homes and lives.
- Jesus then tells his disciples that when they do this welcoming, then they will receive a reward.
- Jesus, though, doesn't clearly say what the reward is.
- But then I realized that the reward was the actual person, was the prophet.

- And this is where I want you to remember our gift conversation
- Jesus is saying that welcoming a prophet is like receiving a gift, a gift from God!

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

- If you think back to what we said about gifts, then you'll remember that we mostly talked about things.
- But people can be gifts, too.
- And when people are sharing God's love, healing, and words, then they are being God's gifts.
- Jesus, in lots of other stories, teaches his disciples how to receive God's love, healing, and words so that they can share God's love, healing, and words.
- And, Jesus also invites us to learn from him how to receive God's love, healing, and words, so that we can then share God's love, healing, and words.
- Once we do start sharing those things with others, guess what?
- Then we, too, are being a gift, God's gift, to one another!
- Pretty cool, right?
- And that's the good news for today.
- Let's pray – this is a repeat-after-me prayer (see CLOSING Prayer)

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who teaches us...

...who teaches us...

...how to be your gift...

...how to be your gift...

...by receiving and then sharing...

...by receiving and then sharing...

...your healing, love, and words.

...your healing, love, and words.

Amen