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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, July 30, 2017

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#) [ **Summary:** *Kingdom of Heaven Parables* ]

**Supplies Needed:** A box with a closed lid that has nothing in it.

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

- Good morning!
- I have a box here and inside of it is something very, very, very important.
- And without me showing you what is inside, I'd like you to try and guess what it is.
- You can ask me whatever questions you want other than "What is it?" and I'll do my best to answer.
- I'll even give you some hints to get started: There's a lot of it; It's not very heavy; It's a very important thing to have and we all use it; It can get inside of you
- *[let them make some guesses and if they still don't get it, give them more hints...]*
- You can't see it; You put it into balloons; You breathe it in (Air!)
- That's right, I have *air* in this box!

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

- Because you know what air is, you were able to guess what the thing was in the box because of my clues.
- But what if I had something in the box that you didn't know? Then none of my clues would've made much sense to you, right?
- I bring this up because in today's scripture story, Jesus is trying to describe to people what the kingdom of heaven is like, something that the people he was talking to probably didn't know too much about.

- So to help people better understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, Jesus teaches and describes the kingdom of heaven by telling very short stories called *parables*.
- From the parables in today's scripture passage, here's what we learned about the kingdom of heaven:
  - We learn that the kingdom of heaven starts small, but can become really big.
  - We learn that just a little bit of the kingdom of heaven is needed to greatly change something else.
  - We learn that the kingdom of heaven is so valuable that people would give everything that they have just to get it.
  - We learn that the kingdom of heaven is filled with an abundance of good things that are not ruined by bad things.
- So...the kingdom of heaven sounds like a pretty good thing, doesn't it?
- Which is why Jesus then says that those who know about the kingdom of heaven should share it with others.

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

- Just like air is something that is important and good and shouldn't be kept from others, so too is the kingdom of heaven
- But with air, we already know how to use it, how to breathe it in.
- With the kingdom of heaven, though, we have to learn what it is and how to choose it.
- We can do this by reading and talking about the Bible stories – including parables, by praying, and by worshiping together.
- And the more we do these things, the more we will learn and know about God's kingdom, how to live in it, and how to share it with others.
- 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 about...**

**...who teaches us about...**

**...the kingdom of heaven...**

**...the kingdom of heaven...**

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

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

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

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

**Amen**