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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, June 18, 2017

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [Matthew 10:24-39](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus Is Not A Secret* ]

**Supplies Needed:** Print (or show on your phone) a picture of a safe, like the one on page 3.

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

- Good morning!
- Can you tell what this is a picture of? (A safe)
- And do you know what people usually keeps in safes? (Something that's important to them; something they want to keep safe)
- And how does a safe, like this, keeps the things that are inside of it safe? (By keeping other people/things from getting to it)
- So what do you think – do you think people who have things in safes often take those things out of their safes to let lots of people use those things? (No, probably not. Why would they keep it in a safe, then?).

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

- I was asking you about safes because in today's scripture story, Jesus does a lot of talking about secrets.
- And secrets to me make me think of safes because when we keep secrets, what we are doing is keeping words locked up – words that we don't share with other people.
- A secret is like putting words into a word safe.
- So, at first, in the story, Jesus is saying how secrets won't stay secret. That covered up things will get uncovered. That locked up things will get unlocked.
- But then Jesus switches from talking about secrets to telling his disciples that they better not keep *him* a secret from others.

- He tells them that the words he has shared with just them should be shared by them, later on, with everyone.
- He also says to “acknowledge” him in their lives – which means “don’t keep what they know about Jesus a secret.”
- But then Jesus tells his disciples that it might seem easier to keep his words a secret because when they do share his words, not everyone will be happy to hear those words..

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

- Now, is it safer to keep things locked up and not share those things? Of course it is!
- But who Jesus is and what he did wasn’t meant to be safe.
- Instead, who Jesus is and what Jesus said was meant to be shared.
- When the disciples did share what they knew about Jesus and who Jesus was, they helped others know God’s healing, hope, and love.
- Healing, hope, and love that brought new life to people.
- Healing, hope and love that was meant to be shared.
- And guess what? Just like the disciples shared with others, so to can we share God’s words of healing, hope, and love that bring life to this world.
- 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 shared your healing, hope, and love...**

...who shared your healing, hope, and love...

**...and then taught his disciples...**

...and then taught his disciples...

**...how to share your healing, hope, and love.**

...how to share your healing, hope, and love.

**Help us to do the same.**

Help us to do the same.

**Amen**

