

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for June 30, 2024

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

**Scripture:** [Mark 5:21-43](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus Never Gives Up* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you – what was something that was difficult for you to learn and took you many tries before you were able to do it right?
- *[Who knows what the kids might say, but if they get stuck, here are some ideas to use to prompt them:*
  - Were you always able to tie your shoes?
  - Ride a bike?
  - *How about walking? Talking? Eating with a fork, spoon and knife?]*
- Because you didn't give up or quit, you can now do those things, right? You kept at it, right?
- Well done with keeping at it until you learned it!

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

- In today's scripture story, we see that Jesus is just like you: He doesn't give up either. But there were a number of times when he could have quit.
- First, a father is asking Jesus to heal his daughter. That's not an easy thing to do, but Jesus agrees to help.
- But, trying to get to the father's house proves difficult because there are so many people surrounding Jesus. Jesus could've quit, right then, but he keeps moving towards the father's house.
- During this journey, a woman who is sick touches Jesus and is cured. But Jesus wants to know who touched him. His disciples are like, "What a weird question -- EVERYONE IS TOUCHING YOU!"

- But Jesus doesn't give up, here, either – he keeps asking who touched him. The woman finally steps forward to say, "It was me."
- Jesus then tells the woman that her faith has healed her and to go in peace – this is an important part of her healing and Jesus knows it, which is why he didn't stop asking about who touched him.
- While this was happening, news arrived that the father's daughter had died.
- The people then tell Jesus to give up, to turn around, to quit.
- But Jesus doesn't listen to them; he doesn't give up. Jesus continues on and makes it to the father's house. Once he's there, he brings the daughter back to life.
- The reason that Jesus does not give up in this story is because the first thing Jesus does and then **KEEPS** doing is focus his attention on God.
- And because he keeps his attention on God, Jesus keeps receiving God's spirit and God's healing love – which he then has to share with the people around him, even when the things that are happening are not easy things.

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

- We live in a world where there's a lot of need for God's spirit and healing love.
- There's so much need, in fact, that we might feel like the world is asking for too much and that we shouldn't even try. We should just give up.
- Which is why today's story is such a good reminder for us to focus on God and what God gives us – instead of focusing on all the things that are being asked for.
- Just like Jesus kept paying attention to God, so too can we keep paying attention to God.
- And when we do keep paying attention to God, then we'll be able to keep receiving **AND THEN** sharing God's spirit and God's healing love with those around us – just like Jesus did in today's story.
- 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 never stopped...**  
**...who never stopped...**

**...paying attention to you...**  
**...paying attention to you...**

**...and teaches us how to do the same.**  
**...and teaches us how to do the same.**

**Thank you and Amen**