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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, March 17, 2019

Second Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Year C

**Scripture:** [Luke 13:31-35](#) [ **Summary:** *God Keeps Loving Jerusalem* ]

**Supplies Needed:** Print out the picture at the end of this file or display it using a phone/tablet.

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

- Good morning! I have a question for you...
- Do you have a pet or do you know someone who does?
- And...do the pets always do what you want? (No!)
- Sometimes they even do the exact opposite of what we want them to do, right?
- For instance, you might want to give your pet a bath – and when you put the pet in the water, what do you they usually try to do? (Jump out, do a quick shake, and run away!)

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

- I share this idea of pets not listening to us because in today's scripture story, Jesus repeats something another prophet had said about God and the city of Jerusalem.
- This other prophet said that God longed to gather the people of Jerusalem together, like a mother bird gathers her baby chicks under her wings.
- That sounds kind of nice, doesn't it? And if you can't imagine it, such an image might look something like this: [show picture at end of file].
- That looks pretty cozy and inviting, doesn't it?
- But, the prophet says that the people of Jerusalem were not willing to be gathered under the care of God.
- Instead, it sounded like they acted a lot like our pets – where they would jump out and run away from God.

- And, because the people of Jerusalem didn't want to receive God's care, then they also weren't too interested in listening to or following Jesus.
- What's so frustrating for Jesus is that he knows it'd be so much better for the people of Jerusalem if they would receive God's love and care...
- ...just like we know it's better for our dogs and cats to have a bath from time to time, even if they don't want it.

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

- So today's story is kind of a sad story.
- But guess what?
- Even if some people in Jesus' time didn't accept Jesus' invitation to receive God's care, **WE** can accept Jesus' invitation to receive God's care and love.
- And, as we follow Jesus and learn from him how to receive God's care and love...
- ...then the more of God's care and love we have to share with others – just like Jesus did.
- 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 receive your love and care...**

...how to receive your love and care...

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

...so that we can then...

**...share your love with others.**

...share your love with others.

**Thank you and Amen**

*See next page for picture*

