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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, November 20, 2016

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 23:33-43](#) [Summary: *Jesus Forgives Those Who Hurt Him*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies are needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever had a day where it felt like one bad thing after another kept happening?
- For example, maybe you were late for school and then you broke something and then at lunch you were supposed to have your favorite sandwich, but before you could take a bite, you spilled your milk all over it and made it squishy...and when you got home, your dog ate your shoe.
- Ever have a day like that? Where it felt like EVERYTHING was going wrong?
- And then, maybe what happens for you is that you start to get mad about it.
- You get so mad that when someone asks you, "Hey, what's wrong?" You might yell at them, "Leave me alone!"
- It's almost like you want to share your bad day by passing it along to other people...

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

- So in today's scripture story, we hear that Jesus is having a incredibly bad day, too.
- He's been arrested and punished for something he didn't do, and while he's slowly *dying* from that punishment, EVERYONE is making fun of him.
- And when I say everyone, I mean the religious leaders are making fun of him, Roman soldiers are making fun of him, even one of the criminals (who is being punished just like Jesus is) is making fun of Jesus.

- It is the worst of worst days for Jesus.
- Amazingly, Jesus does not get mad.
- Instead, Jesus does an amazing thing and asks God to forgive the people.
- And because Jesus seeks God's help during his bad day, then, later on, when the second criminal asks Jesus to remember him, Jesus does not say, "Go away! Leave me alone!"
- Instead Jesus says, "You will be with me."

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

- So, when we ask for God's help, even when things are going really badly for us...
 - ...then instead of sharing our bad day with others...
 - ...we will be able to share God's love and help with others...
 - ...just like Jesus did in today's story.
- And this is the Good News for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Please help us...

Please help us...

...to ask for your help...

...to ask for your help...

...even on our worst days...

...even on our worst days...

...so that we can then share...

...so that we can then share...

...your love and forgiveness with others.

...your love and forgiveness with others.

Thank you and Amen