

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for November 10, 2024

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

**Scripture:** [Mark 12:38-44](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus Keeps It Real* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed.

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

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you – can you remember when Halloween was?
- Do you remember what your costume was?
- What was it?
- So...since you wore that costume of [say a couple of names of the costumes that the kids just told you] were you *really* that person or thing? (expect a lot of yeses here)
- Oh yeah? You were? Are you sure you weren't pretending - maybe just a teeny, tiny, little bit?

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

- That's one of the fun things about Halloween, isn't it?
- You get to pretend that you are someone else, someone that you usually are not.
- In today's scripture story, Jesus tells his disciples that the Pharisees are pretending to be people that they are not...except they NEVER STOP pretending!
- This is not a good thing.
- Jesus says that the Pharisees are religious leaders who only *pretend* to want to know God better.
- And one of the things they do in their pretending is wear a costume of long robes that make them seem like they are paying attention to God even though they are not.
- In other words, the Pharisees did not do what their costume would make you think they would be doing.

- This is like what we learned about our own Halloween costumes, right? Just because we wore certain clothes did not mean we were actually Spiderman or Wonder Woman or a cat.

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

- Now, it just so happened that there was another teacher for the disciples to learn from – someone who was not a Pharisee.
- There was a teacher who did not pretend to pay attention to God, but actually *did* the things that he told others to do.
- And he didn't wear a fancy costume or uniform to try and convince the disciples to pay attention to him.
- This person was, of course, Jesus.
- Since Jesus wasn't pretending, his disciples could trust his teachings and actions as authentic.
- And, just like the disciples learned from Jesus, we can too.
- We can do this by reading and talking about the Jesus stories in the Bible – just like we're doing today.
- And the more we learn from Jesus, the more we learn to pay attention to God just like Jesus did, which allows us to do the same things Jesus did – without having to pretend.
- 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 does not pretend about you...**

...who does not pretend about you...

**...but keeps it real...**

...but keeps it real...

**...in all that he says and does.**

...in all that he says and does.

**Thank you and Amen**