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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, October 15, 2017

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 22:1-14](#) [**Summary:** *Parable Of The Wedding Banquet*]

Supplies Needed: *No supplies needed*

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever been to a birthday party that wasn't for you?
- Can you tell me some things that you did to get ready for the party? (maybe made/bought/brought food, maybe made/bought a gift and wrapped it)
- Those are all very thoughtful things you did!
- Another thing that you did, that maybe you don't think about too much, is that you made the time and effort to BE at the party.
- Because you can't be at that party and at another party in a completely different place at the same time, can you?

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

- So in today's scripture story, Jesus tells a story about how the Kingdom of God is like a party.
- But in that story, even though there's a really great party happening, a lot of people don't go to the party.
- The reasons the people give for not going to the party are that they think it won't be fun, they think it's not important and they have other things that they would rather do.
- Because of those reasons, the invited guests don't go to the party that they were invited to.

- But Jesus says, then, this is too bad that they are going to miss out, because it's going to be a really big and exciting party – everyone is invited to this party, including you and me and everyone in the congregation and everyone in the whole world! We are all invited to God's party!

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

- In other words, even if we *keep* making bad choices, God does not give up on us.
- Now, that doesn't mean that we should try to be like Timmy was or like the people in the story were – where we don't even try to change our mistakes.
- Sometimes, even oftentimes, our mistakes can hurt others and ourselves.
- But no matter how much damage our mistakes cause or how often we make them, God doesn't give up on us.
- God keeps loving us and offering us second chances because God loves us like a parent loves their child.
- And 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 about your party,

...who teaches us about your party,

...the Kingdom of God.

...the Kingdom of God.

Please help us live and share your party.

Please help us live and share your party.

Amen