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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for September 4 2022

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 14:25-33](#) [**Summary:** *The Cost of Discipleship*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies are needed unless your demonstration of skill requires some form of prop.

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

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you: Who here can do *this*? [**this** = a skill. See next bullet point for more explanation]
- [*at this point, display a skill that you have that most kids will not be able to do. Examples include: Any form of whistling, successful use of a yo-yo, playing a musical instrument, juggling, a very simple magic trick like this [one](#) (the link is of a youtube video that shows how to do the “separate your finger” trick), or even just snapping your fingers. Whatever skill you choose, it must be a skill that can be **learned**. No double-jointed tricks or something like that.]*
- So very few of us (maybe even none of us) can do what I’m doing, right? Why do you think that is?
- Because we haven’t learned how to do this thing?
- Hmm. So what would have to happen for you to learn how to do what I’m doing?
 - Yes! First, someone would have to show you how to do it.
 - And, then you’d have to practice to get it right
- This is one way that we learn, isn’t it?
- And one of the things about learning is that the time we choose to spend learning about that thing is time that we do NOT spend on other things.
- So, if we really want to be good at something, then we are going to spend a lot of time learning and practicing that one thing, right?

- Which *also* means that we're going to have less time for other things, even things that we like and enjoy, like hanging out with friends or playing games.

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

- In today's scripture story, we hear that Jesus is surrounded by crowds of people.
- This wasn't unusual. These crowds followed Jesus often, but not in the same way that the disciples did.
- The same disciples were ALWAYS following Jesus, copying what he did and listening closely to what he said.
- The people in the crowds, though, only followed Jesus when he was nearby and when they had nothing else to do.
- Which is why, in today's scripture story, Jesus is telling the people in the crowd that if they really want to learn the skills that he, Jesus, knows, then they are going to have to put a LOT more time into learning and practicing what Jesus is teaching them.
- In fact, Jesus tells them that it will take so much time that they won't always have very much time for other things, including spending as much time with their family and friends.
- In other words, Jesus is telling the crowds that they can't just "be" his disciples.
- Instead, they will have to practice really hard at being Jesus' disciples.

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

- The same thing is true for us.
- It takes a lot of practice and time for you and me to be a disciple – to be a *student* – of Jesus.
- But, if we *do* take the time to learn what Jesus taught, then eventually, we will learn what Jesus knew and do things like he did.
- In other words, we will be better able to receive God's love, forgiveness, and healing and then be able to share God's love, forgiveness, and healing with the people around us – just like Jesus did.
- That is 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 how...

...who teaches us how...

...to live your better way.

...to live your better way.

Help us to make the time...

Help us to make the time...

...so that we can REALLY learn how...

...so that we can REALLY learn how...

...to share your life with those around us.

...to share your life with those around us.

Thank you and Amen