

Lake Highlands Church

Sunday Assembly Reflection – 11/9/14

RECAP: Jim challenged the church to become “conversational Christians” by reclaiming friendships we might have misguidedly dropped during our spiritual journey and by intentionally becoming friends with people we already know. We can’t opt out by claiming we’re not gifted in relating to others. Jesus is a people person, and He transforms our natural personality to be conformed to His image. Satan’s ploy, on the other hand, is to keep Christians away from the world: If no one is conversing, the gospel can’t be shared.

I was challenged this week by Jim’s comment: “You don’t love them until they reject the gospel. You commit to love them forever.” I like to parse out my involvement with people and invest more in those who seem responsive. I am tempted to back off when someone rejects Jesus rather than continuing to press in and love them. Forever seems like a long time; I fear the “wastefulness” of pouring into people and not seeing fruit. I’d be a happy monk, holed up with my books, rather than deal with the mess of relationships that don’t get anywhere. What if things turn awkward because I brought up spiritual things? Yet Jesus had great passion for people around Him. He saw them and gave them His attention. And as His disciple, I am called to do what He does. Not out of legalism, but because of His great love for people, including me. I am reminded that investing in people is never a waste of time.

REFLECTION: (Pick one of the questions below to answer in your small groups, or more if you have time. Be sure to pray for each other at the end).

- Jim said the first step to engage others in conversation is to “shut up.” How comfortable are you with dropping your agenda or script, and focus instead on listening and asking questions. Will you trust Jesus to guide the conversation with someone this week?
- Randy Moore invested well in people. Who do you know that is starving for a relationship or experiencing a challenging life passage? How might you begin to show them that you’re in it for the long haul?
- What is holding you back from loving God’s kids – i.e., every person on the planet? If you could bring one person with you to church next Sunday to experience the love of Jesus, who would it be?

Pray to be able to see people as Jesus sees them. He is full of compassion, not an evangelistic program. Then ask Him for opportunities to love others well and reflect who He is to a starving world.