

Lake Highlands Church

Sunday Assembly Reflection – 1/11/15

RECAP: Continuing his series on justice and our witness in the world, Jim said that injustice always outrages a living God. As seen in the parable of the Good Samaritan, “There are people in the ditch all over the place.” Living in the Big Story of God’s love will shape our response to the most vulnerable and hurting. And we don’t have to check out a person’s political ideology before working to right a wrong. We live with the hope that when Jesus returns, he will make it right for the living and the dead. It isn’t over yet.

The terrorist attack last week in Paris made me realize the great need to be a peacemaker instead of merely reacting to violence with frustration or despair. Injustice and suffering can make people question the existence and goodness of God, but we serve a God who is not distant. To the contrary, He is constantly involved in this world and calls us to be His partners in justice and peace. Getting involved in justice can bring down stereotypes and change the world. Like Jesus, I want to stay on script in the story of God’s love for the world, even as He did while being mocked and abused and crucified.

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).

How might you use the news of the Paris attack to initiate conversation about the justice of God?

Consider Bruce Waltke’s vision of shalom: “The just or righteous disadvantage themselves to advantage the community. The unjust are willing to disadvantage the community to advantage themselves.” How are you willing to disadvantage yourself to help those who are more vulnerable?

Common grace reflects the God who loves people, no matter who initiates it. With whom might you partner to do justice in your community, regardless of their political ideology?

Pray to be living in that sweet spot where love, mercy and justice meet. Ask God for ways to get beyond merely offering a “love pat” of a Scripture verse by rolling up your sleeves to help someone. Let your group know next week how it went.