

Sunday Assembly Reflection

REFLECTION: Jim called the church to live out the risk, discipleship and passion of marriage, in a strong challenge to our easy, no-fault divorce laws. The church is called to a higher biblical standard than what is legally acceptable. Just as Paul didn't follow the mores of his time, so we, too, should be disciplined into Jesus' teachings, rather than look for a way out if our marriage demands more love than we feel we're getting. For the Christian, marriage is not about saying that you love someone, but a public vow that you WILL love that person, regardless of what lies ahead. That takes faith in a God who loves forever, and who never divorces His people.

Jim challenged us to love God more than our romantic ideas that tell us a good marriage partner is "someone who happily accepts us as we are, fulfills all our desires, is well-adjusted, and has no emotional needs or character flaws." Quite frankly, that sounds pretty good! The problem is, there's nobody like this – including me. As my son prepares this year to get married, I am challenged once again to pray for a maturity in him that can see beyond disappointments and hurt, and have the courage to accept that 1) just because it's hard doesn't mean it's wrong, and 2) sometimes we have to suffer to follow Jesus.

QUESTIONS: Please pick one of the questions below to answer in your small groups; more if you have time. Be sure to pray for each other at the end.

1. What are some ways your life group can "tie someone to a mast" to help them get through the temporary insanity of temptation, like Ulysses' instructions to his crew during the sirens' call?
2. Share where popular ideas of romance and love have wrongly influenced your thinking (i.e., looking for Mr. Right, feeling self-pity at not having the perfect mate).

Pray for one another, that like Thomas More, we at Lake Highlands Church will be known for taking our oaths seriously, and for following Jesus even when life is hard.

Sunday Assembly Reflection is written by Lake Highlands Church members for Lifegroups and individuals to receive more from the spoken Sunday Assembly message through reflection and quick discussion. It is published on the first three Monday's of the month. If you are interested in knowing more about a Lifegroup or have a question about the reflection, please contact Donjalea Crane, donjalea@lakehighlandschurch.org or contact one of our Lifegroup leaders by going to lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings.

Lake Highlands Church Sunday Assembly Sermons are published weekly as a podcast. They are available on iTunes and lakehighlandschurch.org.