

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim spoke boldly against the current climate of fear and hate and ignorance between Islam and Christianity as represented by a recent anti-Muslim event in Garland, TX, that left two people dead. He reminded the church that we are in a cosmic battle between the love of God and the false apostles of hate. “We exist to embody the gospel of Jesus Christ the Lord,” Jim said. As a community of peace, we are to take initiative to befriend Muslims, rather than reject them. Why? Because “something has happened,” Jim said. God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ (Eph. 2:13), who reflects the glory of God (2 Cor. 4:6), and our mission now is to serve others in ways that lead them to a God-saved life (1 Cor. 9:21-23, The Message).

Jim drew a distinct line between nationalism and Christianity, saying that followers of Jesus are not governed solely by constitutional amendments; Scripture always trumps the freedoms guaranteed by those amendments. For instance, rather than staunchly defending our right to free speech, we are to “speak the truth in love.” It’s so tempting to react in fear when we see things like extremist groups posting videos of beheadings on the Internet. My self-righteous nature wants to denounce them as unworthy of the love of Jesus. I need to remember that I am also unworthy of that love. What’s more, first-century Christians lived in a much more violent time yet they still exhorted one another to respond in humility and love. How can I do less?

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. How will you seek to understand and serve the Muslim community in Dallas this week as a way to begin ministering friendship?
2. When are you tempted to defend your rights rather than reflect the humility of Jesus? Are you willing to “get back on the donkey” (sermon reference from March 29) with Jesus?

Pray for one another, that we at Lake Highlands Church will benefit the community by extending the presence and peace of Jesus to everyone.

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.