

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim called the church to be discerning regarding the kingdom of God among us today, saying it has “come in right on top of the kingdoms of this world.” In the midst of conflicting allegiances, we are called to obey Jesus, first and foremost. Being guided by Scripture, rather than merely relying on what’s allowed by the government, will help us distinguish the voice and call of Jesus. How we respond to that call demonstrates whether we are guided by human reason or biblical revelation, and whether we are simply doing whatever we choose or choosing the freedom of Jesus, which helps us glorify God.

Jim challenged the church to go beyond mere religious tolerance of others to really show Jesus’ love for everybody. On Sunday, the women of Lake Highlands Church took him up on that by welcoming area Muslim women for a shared potluck lunch after assembly. I was afraid we might have a low turnout, given the violence at a recent Garland convention that insulted the Islamic faith and resulted in violence. Amazingly, the Turkish women kept showing up and filled our fellowship hall. We were able to reflect the love and hospitality of Jesus, by listening well and serving a meal that honored their traditions. I was so proud of our church for taking initiative to be Jesus with these delightful women, and they invited us to join them soon for a meal at their center. I believe we honored Jesus and served these women well.

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. Where are you being a “predictable American” by demanding your rights, in your response to the news? How will you more accurately reflect Jesus, who calls us to bless our enemies instead?
2. How can you be a sign in your neighborhood, your family or at work, that Jesus is not just a private truth, but is real and is Lord of everything?

Pray for one another to discern how we can best reflect the kingdom of God in the midst of conflicting allegiances.

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.