

Sunday Assembly Reflection

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REFLECTION: Jim continued his teaching on the ascension of Jesus by challenging the church to reflect the politics of Jesus, who now rules over all nations and people, rather than the human vision of backing a country or ethnicity or political party that I favor over others. Jesus works through the church he established, not human government, to accomplish his kingdom purposes. Whether laws are just or not means nothing to how the church advances the kingdom. When we equate our faith with the political empire, the church loses its prophetic voice and becomes a puppet of the state. Jesus towers over any other entity.

I was particularly challenged to pray much BIGGER about world issues so that I better reflect the God who loves the whole world -- Palestinians as much as Israelis. I had been taught in evangelical churches that Israel was God's favored nation, even today, and that one measure of being a good Christian was whether you gave Israel your unwavering support. But according to Scripture, that human vision is too small: Jesus has fulfilled all prophecy, the kingdom will be restored to the whole Earth, not just Palestine, and as Jesus told the woman at the well, we now worship in Spirit, not in Jerusalem. Jesus trumps the Old Testament and the New, so it's important how we read Scripture. Jim said, "Dead religion gets excited about where God used to be. Jesus is where it's at." The war we wage now is spiritual, battling the principalities and powers, not flesh and blood. Because the kingdom now includes both Jew and Gentile, I need to move beyond either/or thinking and pray for the both/and of the whole creation. Anything less does not represent 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. Toward whom does my heart need to be expanded to better represent Jesus?
2. What news accounts often push my buttons to react? How will I trust Jesus this week to advance his kingdom through the church?
3. How does the explosive growth of the church in China -- an atheistic, Communist, pro-abortion country -- encourage your faith?

Pray for one another, remembering that there is not one square inch of the world where Jesus "does not cry Mine."

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.

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