

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim answered some questions on Sunday about how the church might respond to the Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriages. As Jesus' disciples, Jim said, we should live in confidence, not fear, and continue to practice love, not hate.

We might be afraid we'll be called "judgmental," but all of us make moral judgments about what is just and fair, based on the narrative we live in. Are some people wired to be homosexual, we might wonder? Since the fall of Creation, nothing is the way it should be, yet brokenness can lead to talk about redemption.

It's a lie to suggest our sex lives are the most important part of us, even though that is how our culture views it. Our sex lives are to be governed, interpreted and reordered by our identity in Christ. Bottom line: Do we really believe God liberates anymore, and that anyone in sexual bondage can be redeemed?

I was particularly challenged by Jim's comment that same-sex marriage is an example of how we collapse the "now" and the "not yet" of the kingdom. We all want fulfillment now, so it's tempting to cut people some slack when it appears they will otherwise live an unfulfilled life, even if it doesn't quite jive with God's Bigger Story.

I felt convicted, too, about ways that I selfishly seek my own fulfillment while expecting others to live an "incomplete" human experience. But this life is not the end of the story we live in. We ALL die incomplete in this "not yet" season. Our real completion and perfection will not happen until Jesus comes. Will we remain faithful to God's story in the meanwhile? As Jim reminded us, "All discipleship is advance training in early death for Jesus' sake."

QUESTIONS: Please answer one or more of the questions below with your small group, and be sure to pray for each other at the end.

1. The current backlash against the church is deserved, Jim said, because some Christians who oppose same-sex marriage have behaved badly. Do you know someone who has perceived the church as hostile? What would it look like to absorb their "bullets" for Jesus' sake?
2. In what situations do you fear losing friends or appearing odd over your convictions about same-sex marriage? How would Jim's reminder to worship God ease your fears?

Prayerfully read the Gospel of Luke and study how Jesus dealt with people in bondage to sin. Pray for ways to practically live out His compassion and conviction.

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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