

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim talked this week about the relationship between authority and freedom. We may think we are free as a bird, but in our own strength, we only reflect instinctive behavior, like an eagle going after its food. Scripture tells us that we are not, in fact, free, and that we need the Redeemer, who is Jesus. In a fallen world, our freedom is more an illusion than a reality. Often we are in bondage to bad parents or to the false authority of our friends. We equate freedom with being free from any restraints. But, biblical freedom happens when God redeems us out of bondage and sets us captives free. It's only when we place ourselves under the authority of King Jesus that we are given the freedom to be who we were created to be. "Where authority is, freedom is; where authority is lost, freedom is lost," Jim said.

Jim used the powerful example of Texas Rangers' outfielder Josh Hamilton, who was the No. 1 draft pick at age 18 before a drug addiction derailed his career. Now back with the Rangers, Josh has submitted to a "special program" set up by the team. "When he is under authority, he's something else: He is free to be who he was created to be," Jim said. We all need a special program like that, Jim added. For me, that's lifegroup, the place where I am regularly confessing my sin, or as Jim put it, "telling yourself what God would say about you if He were talking." I want to be continually straight up with my weaknesses and submit myself to the authority of Jesus. And, I want to encourage others to do the same. I want us all to have the freedom that Jesus gives, to be live freely as He created us to be, all the time.

REFLECTION 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. Has your view of authority changed? Do you see it as a blinking light in your rear view mirror or do you understand the "beauty of being under the authority"? Explain.
2. Jim said that if we're not under Jesus' authority, we're under someone else's. Is there something keeping you in bondage and preventing you from submitting to Jesus (i.e., pride, addiction, unforgiveness, pleasing others, self-righteousness)?

Pray for one another to freely confess sin, submit to Jesus and walk in freedom.

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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