

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim drew a proverbial line in the sand on Sunday, asking the church to consider whether our real day-to-day allegiance is to Jesus, whom God has exalted, or some other lesser power, such as money, the American flag, our spouse or our kids, etc. Jim based his message on Philippians 2 and 3, where Paul was writing to the church at Philippi, a Roman colony in Greece. Though Caesar Augustus' earthly power was intimidating and extensive for the time, Paul taught the Philippians that nothing and no one matches Jesus the Lord, who is the only authority in the room. The same holds true for us. Jesus is a better story and a bigger one than the power trips of the world because it's a love story, and Jesus was not only raised from the dead, He ascended to a worldwide presence far bigger than the Roman Empire.

I was challenged when Jim said what we do now is important because we are the "advance post" of what the kingdom will look like when Jesus comes to colonize the entire earth with heaven. Yet if we're honest, our stated allegiance to the Lord is often weak or corrupted because we are so distracted by other "modest powers" that capture and hold our attention. For instance, Jesus said our lives don't consist of what we possess, but North Americans believe we can never have enough money or things. Like the old bumper sticker read: "He who dies with the most toys wins." Would someone who sees me at work or in my neighborhood say it's obvious that my allegiance is to Jesus, or does my life merely reflect the same desires as those around me? Am I "salty" like Bob Striler, or do I blandly melt into the crowd?

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. Jim said that Jesus wants us to have a "razor-sharp focus" in our allegiance to Him. Give an example of where in your life your allegiance to Jesus has become dull. What will it take for you to "sharpen up"? (i.e., getting over fear of others' opinions, getting your priorities more aligned with what Jesus valued, not fearing the loss of some "freedom")
2. Jim gave the example of how our allegiance is shown by our attitude toward money and finances, which Jesus had much to say about. Are you living simply? If not, will you pray for the power to make your life simple? Why or why not?

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.