

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim preached on the church's mission, which he defined as this: "The people of God share the peace of God with people who don't share our faith in God." The Good News people need to hear is that God is not angry with the world; God, in Jesus, is actually making peace with the world. As disciples of Jesus, we live to share God's friendship. But, to be effective, two things need to happen. First, we need to become credible witnesses by being reconverted from our own arrogance and then empowered by the Holy Spirit. Second, we need to learn the love language of people in our neighborhood so that we can translate the gospel in a way people will understand. Acts of hospitality are a better starting point than words; listening is usually better than speaking.

I didn't quite get what Jim was saying when he called for the church to be converted again. In my mind, I felt I was ready to go invite some neighbors and had begun rehearsing in my mind what I'd say. But when he described the baptismal process of the early church, it hit me. People who had been stopped in their tracks by the gospel and who chose to change direction (repented) would be stripped of their old clothes, experience "death" by being buried in the water and finally re-clothed in the power of the Holy Spirit. That humbling experience would certainly leave an impression on a new believer! They couldn't help but tell others that "suddenly, everything is new!" I had to repent of my thinking that making friends with the world is about having a way with words, or "salesmanship," as Jim put it. It depends on being humbled by an encounter with Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

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.*

- L.D. McCoy gave a testimony about seeing his neighborhood in a new way after being attacked on his own doorstep a year ago. Rather than cower in fear, L.D. is now taking initiative to welcome his newest neighbors and inviting them to church. What are some practical ways you can let God reclaim your neighborhood through you?
- Is it hard for you to share the peace of God with people who don't share your faith in God?
- What's keeping you from being a credible witness for the Good News that God loves the world? Are you willing to be reconverted? Will you ask Jesus to humble you and the Holy Spirit to empower you?

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.