

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim unpacked on Sunday the meaning of Jesus' ascension for us, saying it marked the beginning of the rule of Christ over the entire world. Jesus now sits at the right hand of God, which means he now has all authority. Jesus has won the victory for us; we just need to live out what he tells us to do. We will still face battles and skirmishes until Jesus returns, because Satan opposes the kingdom invasion of the real world. It'd be easier if we could just keep our faith confined within the walls of the church, but we are called to represent the resurrected Jesus all the time, wherever we go. That means we never "park the faith." Instead, we worship and serve 24/7, whether we're at work, at school or at home.

Given the state of rancor in U.S. politics, the baseness of popular culture and the lack of acceptance of cultural diversity in our neighborhoods, it's sometimes hard to remember that Jesus really is in charge of the whole planet. It takes faith and courage for me to stay engaged and focused, and to respond with the hospitality and love of Jesus to a world that either appears hostile or doesn't seem interested. I'm tempted to withdraw, which is exactly what the enemy would like to see happen. Instead, I need to live as if we've already won, because it's true! I need to be sure enough of the big vision to be able to bring God's friendship to the world.

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.*

- Ephesians 3:10 makes a remarkable statement: "Through followers of Jesus . . . this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels." Can you share a time when you participated in kingdom work – however great or small -- that got the angels talking? If not, will you ask God to shake up your predictable routine for the kingdom's sake?
- Jim said that as disciples of Jesus, we live now to share God's friendship in our neighborhoods. Who in your neighborhood needs to become friends with God? How will you begin to extend that friendship?

Start asking God for the names of three people he wants you to pray for as we launch "Prayer Triplets" next month.

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.