



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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CONNECTING WITH A MODERN CROWD

First Lady Michelle Obama spent the week with her daughters in China. The trip was billed as a "people to people" visit. It was more lighthearted than the president's serious and difficult mission to the G-7 summit in Europe. On the first lady's visit to the city of Xi'an, she even had the opportunity to skip rope as cheering Chinese encouraged her. Knowing human nature as we do, the crowd will also cheer heartily for the next celebrity visitor that comes along.

CONNECTING WITH AN ANCIENT CROWD

Jesus was also enjoying the acclamation of a cheering crowd as we see him in today's lesson. His earthly ministry was reaching its apex. A welcome parade into the nation's capital city is every leader's dream, isn't it? But Jesus knew what was ahead. He would soon experience the greatest challenge of his life as the fickle crowd turned against him to demand that he be crucified.

1. Under what circumstances, if any, is it proper to seek or accept the praise of crowds? Why?
2. Under what circumstances, if any, is it proper to be part of a crowd that is cheering someone? Why?
3. What can we learn from passages such as Exodus 23:2; Matthew 21:9; 27:23; Luke 6:26; John 6:66; and Acts 12:22; 14:11-13, 19 about the nature of crowds?
4. Following question 3, how can we remain faithful to Christ when majority opinion turns against him?
5. What gave Jesus strength to face the dark turn of events that confronted him in the last week of his life? What can we learn from this?

—Charles R. Boatman

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