



"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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CLEARING THE DEBRIS

On March 22, a massive mudslide struck the rural Steelhead Haven neighborhood in the state of Washington. A score of people are still missing as the number of confirmed deaths as of this writing has risen to 27. Rescue workers continue to search through the 15 million cubic yards of mud and debris that cover a square mile of crushed houses. Search efforts have been complicated by rain that has mixed with the sewage- and fuel-contaminated muck. To see decent people have their lives ruined or ended altogether by forces beyond their control is truly heartbreaking.

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

The temple of Jesus' day was intended to be a place of decency, a place of prayer. But when Jesus entered the structure he found it full of the kind of debris that could ruin people spiritually. A mudslide of sin in the form of greed and hypocrisy was filling the temple, and a major cleanup effort was required. Jesus' actions in that regard were physical, but the intended effect was spiritual.

1. What parallels do you see between the mudslide in the state of Washington and the spiritual mudslide of sin in today's culture?
2. How do you recognize that a spiritual mudslide is headed your way personally?
3. Thinking of the church as God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17), what will be your part in keeping it pure?
4. Realizing that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), what preventive measures can you take to keep it free from sin?
5. How can Christians have a purifying influence in a culture that denies the reality of sin?

—Charles R. Boatman

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