



"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®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **TEMPTATIONS YIELDED TO**

The sports world has been shaken over the past several days by the release of a recorded conversation reported to be between Donald Sterling (owner of the Los Angeles Clippers NBA team) and a younger woman with whom he has had an unexplained relationship. The blatantly racist remarks on the recording resulted in a free-for-all of condemnations and calls for Sterling's ouster from the ranks of NBA owners—all before the recording was even authenticated! Eventually concluding the recording to be genuine, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Sterling for life from associating with professional basketball and imposed a \$2.5 million fine. The mess reveals that various people failed to resist at least two temptations: those of racism and premature judgment.

### **TEMPTATIONS CONQUERED**

The temptations we see Jesus encounter in today's lesson and throughout his earthly ministry were similar to those we all face—placing fulfillment of physical needs and desires as top priority, using sinful shortcuts to attain positions of power, etc. The form in which our temptations come may differ from those the devil used against Jesus, but our Lord has shown us how to overcome them nonetheless. Jesus successfully resisted Satan; the Holy Spirit is available to help us do so as well.

1. Was Sterling's punishment appropriate for his offense? Why, or why not?
2. Does society's intense focus on Sterling's racist behavior suggest that it ignores or minimizes other sins apparent in this incident? Why, or why not?
3. What would be modern versions of the three temptations that Satan dangled before Jesus?
4. Of those modern versions, which one do people have the most trouble with? Why?
5. What do Jesus' responses to the devil teach us about resisting temptation?

—Charles R. Boatman

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