



"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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TROUBLES THAT OVERWHELM

Julia Pierson, Director of the U.S. Secret Service, resigned last week. Perhaps she felt a bit like Job, as criticism mounted regarding recent security lapses by her agency. Those criticisms further damaged the reputation of the Secret Service, tarnished as it already was by scandals of agents' misbehavior in recent years. At a congressional hearing last week, one concerned member after another "piled on" in a rare show of bipartisanship.

REDEEMER WHO DELIVERS

Troubles can bury us under their weight. Sometimes those troubles are of our own making (as Pierson's may have been), sometimes they are not (as in the case of Job). Either way, the result may be a lot of "soul searching" as we stand alongside Job and wonder *Why me?* But one can ask the why-question for only so long. When an extended period of time passes with no answer forthcoming, we will find ourselves facing a choice: either to pull away from God as we sink further into bitterness, or to draw closer to God as we reaffirm our trust in him.

1. Under what circumstances should a leader be given a chance to straighten up a mess rather than being asked to resign? Why?
2. What specific kind of help in dealing with troubles can we expect from Christ, our Redeemer?
3. What do you learn from the example of Job's friends about how to help and not help someone during a time of trouble and distress?
4. Will our troubles be fewer because we are Christians? Why, or why not?
5. How has your Christian faith blessed you during times of troubles?

—Charles R. Boatman

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