



“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®.

UNANSWERED PRAYERS?

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared back in March and still has not been found. Months later, family members of passengers on that flight said they were still praying for the safe return of their loved ones. A few days ago, the world’s attention was drawn once again to the loss of an airliner when AirAsia Flight 8501 disappeared from radar screens. This too prompted prayers from family members, of many faiths. The prayers continue even now as wreckage and bodies are being recovered.

ASSURANCE OF AN ANSWER!

When Jesus was teaching his disciples how to pray, he included strong assurances that their prayers would be answered. The parable-type teachings that accompany what we call “the Lord’s prayer” illustrate God’s willingness to grant our requests. However, many Christians are disturbed by the fact that their prayers often seem *not* to be answered.

1. Has God “turned a deaf ear” on prayers for the victims of the two airline disasters? Why, or why not?
2. Does the answer to question 1 depend on whether the one praying is a Christian?
3. When your prayers seem not to be answered, how do you align that conclusion with the fact that Jesus assures us that our prayers will be answered?
4. Does it help to affirm that God sometimes responds to prayers with answers of *no* or *wait*, therefore there is no such thing as “unanswered prayer”? Why, or why not?
5. How will your prayer life change as a result of today’s lesson?

—Charles R. Boatman

<http://www.standardlesson.com/downloads>

Copyright © 2014 by Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, OH. All rights reserved.
Each download is for the use of one church only.