



“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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SEEKING SALVATION

Greece’s economy began to collapse in late 2009, burdened as it was by public debt of about \$435 billion. The European Union subsequently offered “salvation” through bailouts approaching \$300 billion in exchange for severe austerity measures. The arrangement has been so unpopular among Greeks that in January they elected a new prime minister who promised to break the austerity agreement. The EU demands that Greece renew its budget reforms. As this week began, Greece was scheduled to make new proposals for continuing to receive bailouts as that nation yet seeks salvation from its financial sins. Some fear a worldwide domino effect should the Greek economy collapse.

SENDING THE SAVIOR

Most nations struggle with fiscal deficits and debt. Greed, corruption, and failure to abide by biblical principles (Proverbs 22:7; etc.) are among the reasons. The near-universal nature of this particular problem underlines the biblical truth that we need a savior from *all* of our sins. Jesus is that savior. Although he paid the penalty for our sins, people still stubbornly resist accepting that “bailout”—a bailout that is not a loan but a gift that pays our sin debt in full.

1. Is Jesus interested in “saving” the economies of nations? Why, or why not?
2. At what point do people’s expectations regarding what they want from their government become sinful? Why?
3. What is the significance of the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove on Jesus regarding his role as savior?
4. How will your life demonstrate in the week ahead that you have accepted Jesus as savior?
5. What is the evidence that your church is being led by God’s Spirit in its ministry to take Jesus to the world?

—Charles R. Boatman

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