



“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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UNCERTAIN ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Senator Ted Cruz recently became the first major candidate of a major U.S. political party to step officially onto the road he hopes will result in being elected president. It is a road stretching many months into the future. The office of President of the United States has taken on an almost mythical, messianic aura as it draws a wide range of hopefuls. Supporters will be obliged to lay carpets of cash in the paths of their candidates. Pundits expect other potential candidates will soon put their campaigns in motion to counteract any momentum Cruz might gain by being first.

CERTAIN ROAD TO THE CROSS

Both friends and enemies viewed his ministry in political and nationalistic terms, but Jesus would have none of it (John 6:15; 11:48; 19:12; Acts 1:6, 7). Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem was not that of a military victor, as the one of 141 BC had been (see the nonbiblical 1 Maccabees 13:49-53). Neither was it a rehearsed, highly scripted event of modern political campaigns. Jesus appreciated the accolades, but that was not why he was in town. He was on the certain road to the cross.

1. How do campaigns for high political office take on messianic overtones? Why is this question important?
2. Why do sincere Christians of good conscience disagree with one another regarding political candidates and issues?
3. What are some modern parallels of the crowd’s shouting “Hosanna” in praise of Jesus, then shouting “Crucify” shortly thereafter (Mark 11:9; 15:11-14)?
4. How do we maintain from day to day the enthusiasm for Jesus seen in the triumphal entry?
5. How do we know when the Lord needs to make use of something we have, such as the donkey in today’s text, for the cause of his kingdom?

—Charles R. Boatman

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