



“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®.

KILLING JESUS

Killing Jesus was seen by 3.7 million viewers on Palm Sunday. The film was billed as “restrained biblical history, suitable for believers and non-believers alike.” However, it didn’t satisfy reviewers at either end of that spectrum. One complained because it “confused religious interpretation with historical fact.” Another said “I searched in vain in this film for any sense of the glory or meaning of Easter. It’s just not there.”

PROCLAIMING JESUS

The world is effectively “killing Jesus” over and over, either by ignoring him or relegating him to myth by distorting the gospel message. As our nation loses its awareness of the biblical message, and as the Christian orientation it once had recedes into the past, the task of proclaiming the resurrected Jesus to an increasingly secular culture becomes all the more urgent.

1. If you watched *Killing Jesus*, what is your evaluation of it?
2. What is your favorite “Easter movie”? Why?
3. What does the size of the audience for *Killing Jesus* say about public interest in the gospel message, if anything?
4. How does popular interest in movies about Jesus square with the increasingly secular nature of Western society?
5. Is it possible to portray the life of Jesus in a way that satisfies both believers and unbelievers? Why, or why not?
6. What are some specific ways you can show “the glory and meaning of Easter” in daily life?

—Charles R. Boatman

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