



“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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CHARGED WITH DECEPTION

Last Sunday, the CBS network’s *60 Minutes* television program revealed the results of an investigation into a 2013 nerve gas attack in Syria. Numerous victims who somehow lived through the attack were interviewed. The Syrian government has denied any connection to the events. However, the investigative report concluded that the government had gassed residents of communities that sided with rebels in the nation’s civil war. If the *60 Minutes* report is accurate, it means the Syrian government has attempted to deceive the world for over a year.

WATCHING FOR DECEIVERS

Deception—political, military, and otherwise—has been part of human interaction since people groups began struggling against one another (compare Joshua 8:3-19; 9:3-23). Deception is also part of the battle for control of the human spirit. It began when the serpent deceived Adam and Eve (Genesis 3). The battle continues to the present day in the lives of everyone (2 Timothy 3:13). The apostle John challenges us to be on our guard against deceivers.

1. Under what conditions, if any, does a government have the right to use deception?
2. In what ways, if any, have Satan’s tactics changed with regard to deceiving people today?
3. When was a time you were a victim of deception? What did you learn from that experience?
4. Give your reaction to this statement: “Those who have nothing to hide, hide nothing.”
5. Give your reaction to this statement: “Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.”
6. How do you guard yourself against being deceived in a spiritual sense? Which passages of Scripture help you most in this regard?

—Charles R. Boatman

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