



"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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NO REST FOR THE WICKED

The end of a relentless search for two prison escapees brought a sense of relief to residents in and around the Adirondack Mountains.

After 22 days, Richard Matt was dead, and David Sweat had been captured. The convicted murderers escaped from a maximum-security prison in New York and had been on the run since June 6. Matt and Sweat had a long history of violent, sociopathic behavior. Among their crimes were kidnapping, murder, and dismemberment of a victim.

ANY REST FOR THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS?

We find it easy to say the escaped convicts got what was coming to them. Like the people of God in Micah's time, we are comfortable condemning people who are obviously evil. But the prophet's warning shows we can be blind to our sins. True righteousness is measured by God's standards, not by contrasting ourselves with society's worst.

1. What was your response when you learned that the police had captured the convicted killers? Why did you feel that way?
2. Why didn't God give ordinary people in Israel and Judah a pass since they weren't as bad as the more obvious sinners among them?
3. How do you answer people who believe God "grades on the curve," declaring them to be good enough when compared to others?
4. Consider the sins Micah condemns in Micah 2. What specific sins among Christian people would Micah tell us to repent of today?

—Charles R. Boatman

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