



"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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TAKING A BOLD STANCE

When the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage two months ago, Kim Davis, the clerk of Rowan County in Kentucky, refused to issue licenses for *all* marriages, despite a federal judge's order to submit to the Court's ruling.

Last week her attorneys asked the Supreme Court to "grant her asylum for her conscience." On Monday the Court denied her appeal. Davis faces the possibility of heavy fines or time in jail for contempt if she does not comply.

PRAYING FOR BOLDNESS

The apostles were also under government edict to violate their consciences. When they reported to the church on what they had been told, the Christians joined together in praying for strength to do as they should, regardless of what the government commanded them to do. God responded by filling them with a Spirit of boldness to be faithful to the gospel.

1. Do you believe Kim Davis is responding correctly to the demands of the government? Why or why not? If you were Kim Davis, what would you do now?
2. What alternatives do you believe Kim Davis has in this situation? Which course of action do you believe is best for the growth of the church and for the church's witness in the world? Explain.
3. Christians have always had to stand for their faith in the face of government opposition. In what other ways are Christians being made to choose today between conscience and demands of their governments? What situations can you foresee Christians facing in the future?
4. Have you ever prayed for boldness before deciding to take difficult actions? What happened? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in such situations?

—Charles R. Boatman

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