



"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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AFTER ALL THESE YEARS . . .

National Football League owners met last week to determine the fates of the Oakland Raiders, the San Diego Chargers, and the St. Louis Rams. Those teams are all trying to move to Los Angeles. In each of the three cities, team owners in search of greater revenue are accused of being unfaithful in their treatment of the city governments who have promised to build stadiums costing hundreds of millions of dollars to keep their teams. Loyal fans who have bought expensive tickets for decades are angry for being jilted.

. . . YOU'RE LEAVING ME?

Betrayal of fans by sports teams can be painful. But Hosea spoke of two betrayals that are far greater. The prophet experienced rejection when his wife Gomer broke her marriage vows. After bearing a son for Hosea, Gomer had two more children. The way the text is phrased suggests the possibility that these children were the product of Gomer's unfaithfulness. This agonizing episode in Hosea's life served to illustrate the pain God experiences when his people are faithless.

1. What similarities do you see between breaking a business contract to enter into a more profitable one and breaking a marriage contract?
2. One could reasonably suppose that there are some fans who are pained by their favorite team's unfaithfulness but who have been unfaithful to their spouses. What might keep them from making the connection between the two?
3. One could also reasonably assume that there are Christians who have felt the pain of marital infidelity but who have been unfaithful to God on many occasions. What might keep them from making that connection?
4. What message do you think Hosea has for the church in modern America?

—Charles R. Boatman

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