



"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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LAW-BREAKER OR SACRIFICE?

Just over a month ago, a group of armed protesters took control of a federal wildlife facility near Burns, Oregon. After three weeks, several left the facility and eight of them were arrested for conspiracy to use force or threats to interfere with federal officers. One other protester, LaVoy Finicum, had vowed he would rather die than go to jail. An official familiar with the encounter said Finicum refused to surrender and was fatally shot. The shooting was still being investigated as this week began. A Nevada state lawmaker sympathetic to the protesters alluded to Finicum being a sacrificial lamb such as Jesus was.

SACRIFICIAL VICTIMS

Blood did not need to be shed in Oregon. But it was not so in Egypt on the night of the Passover. As a part of Israel's liberation from Egypt, the Israelites were instructed by God to sacrifice lambs, one per family, in order to avoid the sure destruction that would soon come upon the Egyptians. The death of the lambs was the means by which salvation would come to Israel.

1. Finicum vowed he would rather die than go to jail. Based on that fact, which of these words would you use to describe him: victim, martyr, sacrifice, terrorist? Does another description come to mind? Why?
2. How do you feel about applying the term "sacrificial lamb" to Finicum? Compare and contrast him to a sacrificial lamb on the bases of his choice in the matter and the purpose of his death.
3. How is the symbolism of the Passover sacrifice carried over into New Testament teaching?
4. Some might describe Jesus as a martyr. Do you agree or disagree with that description? Explain.

—Charles R. Boatman

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