



"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®
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

CAN MONEY REPLACE REPUTATION?

In 2008, Michael David Barrett took illicit videos of sportscaster and reality TV star Erin Andrews through the peephole of her hotel room door. Barrett stood trial for the criminal offense and served two years in prison.

This week, a jury awarded Andrews \$55 million in a civil suit against both Barrett and the hotel. The hotel and its management agent were included in the suit, alleging they had allowed the stalker access to rooms next to those Andrews stayed in. Andrews claimed her life and career had been irreparably harmed.

CAN MONEY AND REPUTATION BRING SALVATION?

A certain man questioned Jesus about eternal life. This person we sometimes call "the rich young ruler" thought his money and positive reputation could make him right with God. Instead, Jesus told him to sell everything he owned and place his faith in God rather than his personal righteousness.

1. In civil suits, monetary awards are given to compensate for loss of life, damage to careers, injuries sustained because of negligence, to name a few. Why is money used this way? How effective is this approach in dealing with the real offenses it addresses? Explain.
2. The rich man in today's Bible lesson seemed to think being financially successful and religious was enough to please God. How do you answer people today who have similar attitudes?
3. How do you know your faith is in Christ, not in financial security or personal morality? How would you react if Jesus told you to sell all you have and follow Him?

—Charles R. Boatman

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