



"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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WHEN SPEECH INCITES

Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric has often been blunt. In fact, many of his supporters are drawn to him because of it, citing his intentional lack of political correctness. However, Trump's detractors have complained that his speech has sometimes been crude and even racist. Last week, some of them responded in kind. A Trump rally at the University of Chicago had to be cancelled when anti-Trump demonstrators and Trump supporters clashed violently.

WHEN SPEECH BETRAYS

Ironically, when Peter's speech betrayed his identity, it also betrayed a lack of spiritual maturity and courage. His Galilean accent enabled people around the campfire to identify him as a disciple of Jesus, but his crude cursing in response indicated a serious moral lapse and brought shame upon him.

1. In determining whom we support, should agreement with the candidate on key issues be more important to us than the nature of his campaign rhetoric? Explain.
2. To what extent do you think candidates should be held responsible for the reactions of their opponents? of their supporters?
3. What do you see in the occasional behavior of some Christians that might be compared to Peter's crude denial of his relationship with Jesus?
4. How do spiritually immature attitudes and speech on the part of Christians affect the world's view of Jesus?

—Charles R. Boatman

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