



"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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DOUBTS ABOUT A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP

Fifteen months ago, President Obama announced that the United States would restore diplomatic relations with Cuba. Last week, the long, slow process came nearer to realization when the president made an official visit to Havana. The trip resurrected official recognition between the two nations more than half-a-century after the Cold War estrangement took place. However, there are still critics on both sides who doubt that the time is yet right for the restoration of normalcy.

FAITH IN A RESTORED LIFE

There was plenty of reason for doubt that first Easter morning. The women whom the angel greeted at Jesus' tomb were afraid and confused. They had expected to find a corpse in the tomb, so they had every reason to doubt the angel's words. Nevertheless, the seed of faith had been planted and it would grow to fruition when they later saw the risen Lord.

1. Why are some people critical of the events in Havana this week?
2. Do you find yourself confused, optimistic, or pessimistic about changes in diplomacy such as we saw this week? Explain.
3. How did the women's fear affect their ability to believe the message that Jesus had risen?
4. If you had been in the women's place, how would you have reacted to the angel's message? Why?
5. What emotions or attitudes keep people from believing in the risen Jesus today?

—Charles R. Boatman

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