



"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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A CULT OF DEATH

Christians celebrate life at Easter-time. This year, Islamic terrorists chose to glorify death at that time. On Sunday, they attacked Christians in a city park in Lahore, Pakistan. The immediate death toll was nearly 70 people, mostly women and children. A Catholic priest kidnapped by ISIS from an old people's home on March 4 was reported to have been crucified in Yemen on Good Friday. It could have been worse. Intelligence officers working in the aftermath of the Brussels bombings on March 15 were apparently able to interrupt plans to attack churches across Europe starting on Good Friday and continuing through Easter Monday.

A FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE

In contrast, Jesus demonstrated for us the kind of attitude God really wants to see in those who worship him. When the Roman centurion begged Jesus to save his servant's life, Jesus might have refused the request because the centurion was "not of the right faith." But he did not! Jesus rewarded the man's trust by healing the servant. In doing so, he showed us that God loves life, not death!

1. What should be our response when others intentionally seek to do evil to us because we are Christians?
2. What are some non-violent ways in which Christians are singled out because of their faith in our society?
3. How do you understand Jesus' comment that he had "not seen such faith in all of Israel"?
4. Does God hear the requests of non-Christians today? Explain your answer.
5. What can Christians do to help the world view our faith more favorably?

—Charles R. Boatman

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