



"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®.

TO WITHHOLD HOSPITALITY . . .

For nearly half-a-century, evangelical Christians have largely been united on so-called "culture war" issues such as homosexuality and abortion. However, it is not so on the related questions of immigration and treatment of refugees. Last week, a Public Religion Research Institute poll showed a deep divide among conservative evangelicals. Evangelicals who take a more restrictive line on immigration and refugee issues tend to be white, male, older, and non-college educated. Their opposites are likely to have more accommodating views.

. . . OR OFFER IT?

Hospitality, or the lack of it, was also evident in the tension between Jesus and Simon, the Pharisee. Simon's hardness of heart showed in his harsh criticism of both Jesus and the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet with her tears and expensive perfume. Jesus also seems to have been correlating common social graces with compassion, both of which Simon failed to exhibit.

1. For Christians, is the issue as simple as being either for or against illegal immigration and acceptance of refugees from unstable countries? Is it fair to say one is a compassionate view while the other is not? Explain.
2. In America today, for what other issues is uncritical acceptance equated with compassion? Was Jesus' compassion toward sinners an uncritical acceptance of them? Explain.
3. Choose a class of people in America as an example and explain why you feel either more or less accommodation is the appropriate Christian response.

—Charles R. Boatman

<http://www.standardlesson.com/downloads>

Copyright © 2016 by Standard Publishing, Part of the David C. Cook Family. All rights reserved.
Each download is for the use of one church only.