



"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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THANKS . . .

In presidential-election years, unsuccessful primary candidates may court the front-runner to be chosen as the vice-presidential candidate. The media typically ask the other candidates whether they are interested in the position. The answer is usually, "Thanks, but no thanks (wink-wink)." This year, when asked whether they would consider the #2 spot on a Trump ticket, representatives and advisors of other candidates such as John Kasich, Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, and Marco Rubio have all emphatically denied their man is in any way interested.

. . . BUT NO THANKS.

We expect a sly "no thanks" response as a political maneuver, but in other areas of life we look for more straight-forward gratitude. Luke tells us about nine of ten lepers who failed to return to give thanks to Jesus for healing them. While they accepted healing Jesus offered, did their behavior say, "No thanks," to a life of continued gratitude and loyalty to Jesus?

1. Is the "thanks, but no thanks" response of so many contenders merely a political ruse, or is there another message implied? If so, what is it?
2. Political primaries allow candidates to contrast themselves with their rivals. What considerations would need to be made before an unsuccessful candidate joined forces with a former rival?
3. Jesus pointed out that there was an important political/religious difference between the returning leper and the nine others. Would that difference lead others to believe that he would have been more or less likely to come to Jesus than the other nine? Explain.
4. To this day, people seek divine favor but are hesitant to become faithful followers of God. What political, cultural, or personal barriers can stand between a person and Jesus?
5. Think of someone who has become a Jesus follower despite such barriers. How is that person like the tenth leper in our Bible lesson?

—Charles R. Boatman

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