



"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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SECOND-GUESSING THE PRESIDENT

President Obama has been in Japan this week and was scheduled to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. Many have speculated as to whether or not he would be apologizing for America's use of the atomic bomb to end World War II. A 2015 opinion poll by a Russian news agency found that 60% of the Japanese public wanted an apology for the bombing. A recent Japanese survey of *hibakusha* (survivors of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki), however, said 80 percent of them are *not* seeking an apology. These numbers are similar to a Gallup survey of the American public in 1995 which found that only 20 percent supported apologizing. The White House promised that the president would make no apologies but would mention America's "moral responsibility" to lead efforts to create a nuclear weapon-free world.

SECOND-GUESSING JESUS

When Jesus volunteered to go to the home of Zaccheus for dinner, critics jumped on the opportunity to question Jesus' motives for his actions. However, Jesus had supernatural knowledge of what was going on in Zaccheus' heart. He was more concerned with what was taking place there than in what was in the minds of his critics.

1. Is the ongoing argument over the use of atomic weapons in World War II productive or not? Explain. Should either Japan or America apologize?
2. Why do we delight so much in second-guessing other people, especially regarding their motivation?
3. How does a critical spirit steal Christian joy from us? from those whose motives we question?
4. How do you personally combat the temptation to be negative?
5. What positive actions have you found to help you experience Christian joy?

—Charles R. Boatman

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