



"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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LISTENING CAREFULLY TO ADVICE

Last Sunday was a festive day for 350,000 auto racing fans who saw the Indianapolis 500. It was a sellout crowd for the first time in the race's hundred-year history. But for some drivers and race teams, the day brought distress, anguish, and defeat because of crashes and mechanical problems.

However, a car skillfully driven by rookie driver Alexander Rossi coasted victoriously across the finish line on an empty fuel tank. Rossi had humbly accepted his team leaders' orders to drop his speed on the last couple of laps, rather than charging boldly toward the finish. This decision saved enough fuel to help Rossi win the race.

FAILING TO HEED A WARNING

Most of the people in Zephaniah's audience refused to hear his message warning them of the doom that awaited them. This was true of most of the people who heard the message of the Old Testament prophets. While a humble remnant found safety by trusting in the Lord, a proud spirit led an idolatrous majority to run headlong into destruction. They chose to run the race of life in their own way.

1. What do you find unique about Rossi's behavior among sports personalities? Why is Rossi's attitude so seldom seen among sports competitors?
2. How might godly humility make a difference in one's demeanor in sports? . . . in other competitive areas of life?
3. Using the racing metaphor, how are we tempted to race through life without caution, not heeding warnings along the way? What temptations in modern life threaten to keep us from crossing the finish line as victors?
4. What sins that Zephaniah names compare to some practices in the modern Western full-speed-ahead lifestyle?

—Charles R. Boatman

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