



"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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TOO MANY VICTIMS?

On June 2, Stanford University swimming star Brock Turner was sentenced to six months in jail for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman on the university campus. It is likely that he will serve only about half of that sentence, even though he had faced up to 14 years in prison. Yet, Turner's father complained that the sentence was too harsh for a mere "twenty minutes of action" on his son's part. The father blamed a college culture that encouraged alcohol abuse and sexual promiscuity.

In contrast, others saw an attempt to explain away the crime of a privileged predator caught in the act of assaulting an unconscious victim behind a dumpster. Outrage over the judge's decision is so great that there have been numerous demands for his recall. This case will likely fuel a nationwide debate about rape culture, privilege in the criminal justice system, and campus safety.

CHANGE FROM A FEW

A corrupt culture had infected the lives of the least to the greatest in Israel. But Zephaniah promised that redemption and lasting change could come from a few—a remnant of faithful God-followers.

1. In the Stanford case, both parties claim to be victims of culture—one culture that promotes risky behavior without consequence and another that protects wealthy individuals and star athletes. What do you think of these arguments? How are both right? How are both wrong?
2. It is easy to feel helpless when we are pressing against the cultural tide. What are we not understanding when we feel this way?
3. How does Zephaniah's promise of a faithful remnant give you hope when we see rampant sin and injustice today?

—Charles R. Boatman

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