



"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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THE WORLD'S PROBLEM

The Indian city of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) is a graphic symbol of the world's problems. It has long been filled with the "poorest of the poor," as Mother Teresa called them. She spent her life compassionately feeding, clothing, and housing them, even as they were dying. Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa last Sunday. At the global headquarters for Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata, Muslims and Hindus joined in celebrating her elevation to sainthood. The pope called her "a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded." "May she be your model of holiness," Francis said.

GOD'S PROMISE

Regardless of the noble model Teresa's life offers, it is God who provides the greatest model of holiness for us. Through Isaiah, God promised to bless a poverty-stricken and spiritually sick world with his divine provision. Our greatest need is not the finest of food and drink, but to have the shroud of death and disgrace removed from us. Through Christ, that shroud will ultimately be destroyed.

1. Whether or not you share the Catholic Church's theology regarding "sainthood," in what way is Teresa's life a challenge to you? Do you think of her as a "model of holiness"? Why or why not?
2. Do you find it difficult to care for such people as Teresa served for so many years? Explain.
3. Do you think God's promise in Isaiah 25 should be understood literally? How will it be fulfilled?
4. How would you answer someone who says that God is not faithful to his promises? Share some examples of God's faithfulness that you have experienced.

—Charles R. Boatman

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