



“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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SHOULD WE BUILD THERE?

September brought heavy rain and extensive flooding to many areas. Detroit and its environs, including parts of Ontario, experienced significant damage. South Texas and Central Texas saw widespread flooding. Multiple rivers throughout southern Minnesota overflowed their banks, putting homes, businesses, and municipal facilities at risk. In all these areas, scores of people had to be rescued from homes and vehicles.

JESUS’ ADVICE ON WHERE TO BUILD

From time immemorial, people have built towns and cities on flood plains, ocean beaches, and other areas subject to flooding. So Jesus was commenting on human nature when he advised us to build on solid rock where floods cannot destroy what we have built. Of course, his advice had to do with more than building physical structures. We must also build the spiritual edifices of our lives on solid ground where they cannot be washed away.

1. What seemingly valid reasons might people offer for building where flooding is possible?
2. In what way does your answer also illustrate why people build their lives in dangerous situations?
3. Name some examples of building one’s life on “sand,” as Jesus says.
4. What is the “rock” on which Jesus advises us to build?
5. How does fixing our thoughts on Jesus, as Hebrews 3:1 implores, assure that our lives will represent a house built by God?

—Charles R. Boatman

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