



"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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BLINDED BY PRIDE

This Thursday was the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1941, Japan was expanding its influence, having invaded China and setting its sights on the resources of the British, Dutch, and French colonial empires in Southeast Asia. America, the economic giant, stood in Japan's way. Historical evidence suggests the Japanese leaders knew they could not win a sustained war against the United States, so a surprise attack was the way to accomplish their goal. Four years later, Japan's prideful leaders were brought low, having to submit to unconditional surrender.

HONORED FOR HUMILITY

When the angel announced to Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah, she responded humbly. Even after Mary had time to reflect on the matter, her reaction to Elizabeth's words confirming the promise was one of humility. She recognized that God brings down those who think too highly of themselves. But now, 2,000 years later, Mary is still honored by a multitude of those who follow her son.

1. How did the pride of Japan's leaders cause them to so badly misjudge America's power to respond to their attack?
2. What other historical situations come to mind that demonstrate the principle of pride leading to a fall (Proverbs 16:18)?
3. What does Mary's humble response teach us about how to respond to life's challenges?
4. What situations have you experienced in your life that illustrate the problems that accompany pride and the blessings that humility brings?
5. Have you ever encountered a situation in which another person's counsel confirmed your sense of God's plan for your life? Explain.

—Charles R. Boatman

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