



"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®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **RUMORS OF MISDEEDS**

Allegations have been circulating for months about Republican attempts to involve the Russians in last year's election. Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller is investigating the charges. A week ago, the tables turned, with the *New York Post* reporting that Mueller is expanding his probe to include Tony Podesta, the brother of the Clinton campaign chairman. He and his firm are now the subjects of a criminal investigation. The Post is further alleging the Russians were given approval from the previous administration to buy American uranium. Then things turned again on Monday when the Mueller probe began handing down indictments on the Russian election-tampering issue.

### **PROVEN SINS**

Much of the above has yet to be proved, but each party is trying to convince us that the other is guilty of significant political misdeeds. In Israel, the case of Hophni and Phinehas was different: there was no question about the nature of the evil they had been involved in. What made it even worse was that they were religious leaders. Their blatant misuse of the privileges of the priesthood caused God to bring them to an early death.

Yet not all priests were guilty. Earlier, Phinehas son of Eleazar was praised for his zeal and faithfulness. And although Hophni and Phineas (sons of Samuel) would be judged, God promised that he would raise up a faithful priesthood in their place.

1. Does it seem to you that American politics has reached a new low? Explain. If not, what evidence can you offer that there are faithful leaders seeking to do right?
2. What can we learn from the unfaithfulness of Israel's religious leaders? What is the relationship between faithfulness and the receiving of blessings in a covenant with God?
3. Describe what faithfulness to God and zeal for his commands look like in our lives today.

—Charles R. Boatman

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