



"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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CAUGHT IN SIN

Deceitful use of power has been very much in the news recently. Previously respected and powerful men in the media and government have admitted to using their power for sexual gratification. President Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, acknowledged a different form of deceitfulness. Flynn admitted to lying to the FBI about the investigation into Russia's alleged role in the 2016 elections. The chief investigative reporter of a major news network quickly abused *his* power to falsely report that Flynn was prepared to testify that, *as a candidate*, Donald Trump directed him to contact the Russians. It is no wonder that confusion as to where the truth is to be found is rampant.

PAYING FOR SIN

Elymas, a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet, deceived others with false information about the apostles. He tried to turn people away from Jesus when they were seeking the truth. He paid dearly for his sins, being struck blind for a time. Modern deceivers may not pay in the same way as he did, but it appears that the sins of many are catching up with them.

1. What are the effects on society when powerful—and apparently respectable—people are charged with, and then admit to, bad behavior?
2. What causes people of importance to believe they can get away with abusing their influence? What should be their punishment?
3. Does the punishment for the sin of Elymas, a powerful government advisor of his day, indicate that his sin was worse than our sins? Explain. How do you protect yourself from sins of deceitfulness?

—Charles R. Boatman

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