



"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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A RECURRING HARDSHIP

Wildfires raged across southern California last week from Santa Barbara County to San Diego County. More than 200,000 people have been forced to evacuate as some 300 square miles have been scorched. Most of the fires have been brought under control, but the one in Ventura County was still growing early in the week. One family lost a home in that fire after already having lost a home to a wildfire in October in northern California. Californians are now being forced to recognize that "fire season" is a year-round hardship.

OVERCOMING HARDSHIPS

As persecution followed Paul and Barnabas from town to town on their missionary tour, they concluded that multiple hardships were the natural consequences of proclaiming Jesus. To confirm the faith of those who had come to Christ through their preaching, the apostles courageously returned to the scenes of their persecution to encourage the new converts.

1. Certain natural disasters are more common in some areas than they are in others. What reasonable precautions should one take when living in an area prone to such recurring hardships?
2. What hardships do people in different parts of the world face as natural consequences of proclaiming Jesus? What hardships do people in this country face for attempting to live out their faith?
3. Note Paul and Barnabas's approach to dealing with hardships they faced when proclaiming Christ. What can we learn from them when we face similar difficulties?

—Charles R. Boatman

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