



"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®.

### **LOYALTY, LEAKS, AND . . .**

Former FBI director James Comey, who was fired by President Trump, testified in a highly anticipated congressional hearing last week. He claimed the president demanded loyalty from him in January, during their first meeting. Comey said he promised "honesty" instead. Comey also alleged Trump requested, during a private meeting in the Oval Office in February, that he drop investigations into former national security advisor Michael Flynn's interactions with the Russians. Characterizing Trump as a liar, Comey admitted that his mistrust led him to ask a friend to leak information about their conversations.

### **. . . LEADERSHIP**

Jephthah mistrusted the leaders of Gilead. His half-brothers had driven him from his home in Gilead because Jephthah's mother, a prostitute, was not their mother; and Jephthah considered the elders complicit in this indignity (see Judges 11:7). Now these leaders were pleading with him to lead the Israelites into battle against the Ammonites. Jephthah challenged their fickleness and agreed to become their head only if they would vow their loyalty to him before the Lord.

1. How do we determine truth and falsehood in what is happening in Washington these days?
2. How would you rank political loyalty versus honesty? Why?
3. Give examples of how these values might compete. Give an example of a life situation in which loyalty and honesty should be complementary.
4. Was Jephthah justified to insist on loyalty from the leaders of Gilead? Why or why not?
5. Is it appropriate to demand loyalty from people during serious negotiations today? In what ways do we do this?

—Charles R. Boatman

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