



"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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DEATH IN A FOREIGN LAND

Last weekend 10 immigrants died after being locked in a truck that was found in a San Antonio parking lot. The victims were being transported by human traffickers. Many other victims were hospitalized for extreme dehydration and heatstroke. Such events provoke strong debate, with members of the Sanctuary Movement saying the incident is evidence of a need for change in immigration policies, while others say the event calls for stricter law enforcement. Either way, more than a score of people suffered or died in a land not their own.

A PREDICTION OF CAPTIVITY AND DEATH

Although Amos denied that he was a prophet, he responded to God's call and delivered a message of doom for Israel. He proclaimed that both Israel's king and its people would be taken captive and die in a foreign land. Unlike illegal immigrants who seek a better life in the United States, the Israelites would be transported to a strange land as exiles who were paying with their lives for their idolatry and sinfulness.

1. Where should the blame be placed for the deaths in San Antonio?
2. What other types of human trafficking are you aware of? How would you solve this problem as it appears in its many guises?
3. What guidelines does the gospel offer to Christians for determining their attitudes and actions regarding this situation?
4. What do you think Amos would say to America today?
5. How might God be calling you to speak to our culture's evils?

—Charles R. Boatman

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