



“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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SUDDEN DEATH

Last Wednesday Americans Kurt and Mellissa Cochran were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in London, walking on the Westminster Bridge, when a terrorist drove his car into them. Kurt and one other person were killed on the bridge before the assailant drove to the Parliament grounds, where he killed a policeman with a knife. The attacker was shot and killed by police, but not before he injured 50 other victims. ISIS has claimed that one of their “soldiers” was the assassin, and several suspected accomplices have been arrested.

ABIDING COMFORT

When unexpected evil suddenly strikes us, we are challenged to discover whether the resources of our faith can withstand the blow. Christians needing comfort often read Psalm 23 in such situations. This passage of Scripture is among those most commonly read at funeral services. A significant reason for the psalm’s popularity is the psalmist David’s claim to have no fear of evil, even when he was walking through life’s darkest valleys.

1. How do you react when you hear that another Islamic terrorist has struck innocent victims far from the Middle East?
2. Should we react differently than what you just expressed? Why? If so, in what way?
3. How does David’s promise of God’s care in Psalm 23 help you live in an age when terror of more than one kind can strike at any moment?
4. What does it mean to you that God prepares a feast for you in the presence of your enemies?
5. Share with the group how Psalm 23 has brought you peace during a difficult time in your life.

—Charles R. Boatman

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