



"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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FRUSTRATION

Last Saturday night, Britain suffered a third Islamist attack in three months when terrorists drove a van into pedestrians on London Bridge and then stabbed many victims in the nearby restaurant district. Seven were killed and dozens wounded. Theresa May, Britain's prime minister, gave a strongly worded response. However, government efforts to restrict incitements to terror have been frustrated by free-speech impediments in British courts, creating a sense of impotence in dealing with such threats.

IMPOTENCE

Gideon may have felt a similar sense of impotence when called to deliver Israel from the Midianites. He found a number of excuses to resist God's call: God's current actions in Israel's behalf weren't as bold as they had been in the past, Gideon was from a weak clan, he was least in his family, he needed a divine sign, etc.

1. How can a society which values privacy and the freedoms of speech, association, and religion protect itself from those who abuse those freedoms to destroy that society?
2. Should temporary security measures such as those used in wartime be put in force to protect us today? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever felt, as Gideon did, that God isn't working in behalf of his people as he used to? Explain.
4. Have you ever felt you were inadequate for what God called you to do? How did you deal with such feelings?
5. When we are unsure of God's will for us, should we seek signs? Why or why not?

—Charles R. Boatman

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