

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

And Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

Luke 10:25-28 (ESV)

TWO OPTIONS TO CLOSE THE GAP

But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:29 (ESV)

1. **REDEFINE WHO MY NEIGHBOR IS**
2. **LET JESUS REFINER THE KIND OF NEIGHBOR WE WILL BE FOR OTHERS**

“The parable of the Good Samaritan has built the world’s hospitals and, if understood and practiced, will remove race prejudice, national hatred and war, class jealousy.” - Archibald Robertson, 1930

Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and the Samaritan took care of him. And the next day he took out two day’s wages and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, became a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” The Lawyer said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:30-37 (ESV)

HOW DOES JESUS REFINE US TO BECOME ONE WHO IS NEAR TO PEOPLE?

1. **RECOGNIZE OUR OWN BROKENNESS**

“We are all frail, but you shall judge no man more frail than yourself.”
- Thomas a Kempis

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST - by grace you have been saved.”

Ephesians 2:4-5 (ESV)

2. **RECEIVE MERCY FROM JESUS**

“The compassion of God in our hearts opens our eyes to the unique worth of each person.” - Brennan Manning

“Compassion is born when we discover in the center of our own existence not only that God is God and man is man, but also that our neighbor is really our fellow man.” - Henri Nouwen, ‘The Wounded Healer’

3. **RELEASE MERCY**

“Thus Jesus showed that the real test of love is action, not just profession.” - Constable