



“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®.

### **EVADING RESPONSIBILITY**

A psychiatrist in West Virginia recently added fuel to the fire that currently engulfs the Department of Veterans Affairs. She said she was told, when employed by the VA, to delay many veterans’ treatment for months, at least two of whom committed suicide in the interim. Other whistle-blowers have charged that VA hospitals keep secret waiting lists of patients to hide their failure to treat veterans within the prescribed amount of time. CNN reports that 40 veterans have died while on the waiting list at the VA hospital in Phoenix, Arizona.

### **ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY**

Jesus’ summary of the Old Testament law in today’s lesson addresses every situation in life, particularly those in which people need to be cared for. Love for God and love for others are our Christian responsibilities in helping to bridge the gap between what life is and what life should be. The two obligations to love are interlinked; they cannot be separated (see Matthew 25:41-46; 1 John 3:17).

1. What discrepancies do you see between Jesus’ view of the two greatest commandments and the alleged behavior at certain VA facilities? Be specific.
2. Do Christians have any “above and beyond” love responsibilities toward veterans of their country’s wars? Why, or why not?
3. What does love for neighbor (or the lack of it) say about one’s love for God?
4. How will you demonstrate love for neighbors this week?
5. What situations prompt you to focus more on the needs of others rather than your own?
6. What circumstances call for our loving acts to be done openly, for all to see (Matthew 5:14-16), rather than in secret (Matthew 6:1-4)? Why?

—Charles R. Boatman

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