

1. Deuteronomy 10:17-19 (**Alert: Lots of Bible Verses!** Let's start with this text—considered it before, but in this the last OT focused study on God's concern for the others—it is worth visiting again. Notice how the text flows. It is a descriptive text of God—demonstrating who he is, his nature and identity. A large part of the way he defines himself is how he cares for the others—the vulnerable, the strangers, the weak. This is who God is—embedded within his very being. Cannot attempt to define God without understanding this about him. So he desired the same thing from his people—to have engrained within their very identity the same care, concern for and sensitivity to the others. “And you are to love the aliens”—the others was his mandate. It was embedded within the Law; spoken of repeatedly by the prophets; a major reason why God created the community of Israel in the first place—gifting them the Promised Land. It was to be a new kind of community; a different nation-state reflecting the very nature of God in how they related; how they governed; how they treated the others. Check out just some of the texts emphasizing this)
2. Exodus 22:21; 23:9, 22; Deuteronomy 23:15; 27:19; Psalm 146:7-9; Proverbs 31:8; Isaiah 1:17; 58:6-7; Jeremiah 22:3; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9-10
3. Israel Failed the Others—Ezekiel 22:29 (Instead of embodying the nature of God; instead of caring for; protecting; and embracing the others and flourishing as the new kind of community God intended: Israel ended up becoming just like all of the nations around her—practicing extortion; dishonesty; oppressing the poor, the needy, the strangers among them—denying justice to all. They failed—not because they forgot Torah or failed to bring sacrificial offerings to God to honor him—they did those things. They failed—not because of idolatry or greed or immorality—of which they were guilty. But those were just the natural consequences of first failing to be like God in practicing justice and honoring the others within their community. God made it clear—their failure and fall was due to failing the others)
 - a. This brought upon God's judgment—Malachi 3:5 (He brought judgment for defrauding and oppressing the vulnerable and denying justice for the strangers)
 - b. This rendered their worship detestable to God—Amos 5:7, 11-12, 21-24 (It is made clear here that bc of Israel's failure to take care of the others God rejected/hated their assemblies, their offerings, their worship—strong stuff, but again demonstrates the priority God puts upon his people protecting and caring for the others)
4. (The purpose of our time spent in the OT—has been to see without a doubt—how God revealed himself to his people and who he wanted them to be in regards to demonstrating a different way of treating one another in a brand new community called Israel. Throughout the entire OT this never changed. And it still hasn't. The ministry of Jesus just continued this exact same emphasis—and now it has been handed over to us.) Luke 14:12-14 (Yes, it really is all about the others and as we shift to a Jesus and NT focus it will even be made all the clearer. I just hope we, unlike Israel, are listening)
5. “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”-- Proverbs 31:8 (let's not fail the others!)