

## The Jesus Test

The Reverend Peter Cook  
New York State Council of Churches  
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On Tuesday, the comedian Jimmy Kimmel said that the Graham Cassidy, failed the Jimmy Kimmel test. I appreciate Jimmy Kimmel's succinct and biting critique. He made think, what are the other tests this bill fails? As a Christian pastor, Kimmel made me think, would Cassidy Graham pass the Jesus test?

Jesus said, the great law that is greater than any other law is the Jewish Shema which says, "you shall love the lord your God with all your heart mind and soul and your neighbor as yourself" But when senators take away health care from 32 million people they show no demonstrable love for God or neighbor. They fail the Jesus test

Jesus said, "I was sick and you visited me" and cast judgment on people who did not care for the sick or the outcast. But when Senators say that there is a cap on what a person can get for their health care so doctors won't visit at a certain point, they fail the Jesus test.

Jesus complained about pietistic people boasting of their religiosity for all to see and yet hypocritically piled on heavy burdens on people's shoulders and not lift a finger to help. So when these Bible-toting Senators show off their piety at prayer breakfasts, but propose taking billions of dollars from health care from poor folks to give big tax cuts to rich folks, they fail the Jesus test.

As a pastor, I am sick and tired of Senators who don't study for the test. They plan one public study hall in Homeland Security, plan no debates, and offer no moral insight, and yet think that if other Senators lie for political expedience and don't study, then they too can lie and cheat too. They fail the Jesus test because of their willful laziness.

Brothers and sisters, the American people and the politicians who represent us, out of love for God and neighbor, need to be getting A's and not F's on both the health care test and the Jesus test. So study up, read the bill, and then with all your might and out of love for God and neighbor, say yes to good health care and No to Graham Cassidy. We need our Senators to pass the test.