

God's Heart for the Vulnerable Applied to IMMIGRATION

Introduction –OUTSIDERS in the Bible.

- A “stranger” = a foreigner.
- A “sojourner” lived a nomadic lifestyle.
- An “exile” was forcibly uprooted from their homeland.
- The overall idea can include:
 - resident alien - refugee - traveler
 - temporary worker - immigrant - foreigner
- The BASIC IDEA -> “you’re not from around here” and consequently you are at some sort of disadvantage.

1. God cares for the vulnerable, including FOREIGNERS.

Psalm 146.5-9

2. God has always expected HIS PEOPLE to be one of the CONDUITS of His compassion and concern for foreigners.

Leviticus 19:33-34 - ³³“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ³⁴You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Numbers 15:15-16 - ¹⁵For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. You and the sojourner shall be alike before the Lord. ¹⁶One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.”

Exodus 22:21-24 - ²¹“You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. ²²You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. ²³If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, ²⁴and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.

Hebrews 13:1-2 - ¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3. LOVE must motivate Christian compassion and care for immigrants, strangers, and foreigners!

Deuteronomy 10:17-19 - ¹⁷For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Matthew 22:35-40 - ³⁵And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 7:12 - ¹²“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

4. God's people should especially be empathetic to foreigners, immigrants, and refugees because of our own STATUS in the world.

Exodus 23:9 - ⁹*"You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.*

Leviticus 25:23 - *"The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.*

Hebrews 11:13 - ¹³*These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth...*

1 Peter 2:11 - *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.*

Philippians 3:20 - *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

5. This is more IMPORTANT than you think!

Malachi 3:5 - *"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.*

Matthew 25.31-40

Conclusion / Application –

- Pray for a new mission trip opportunity that will allow us to have ministry to immigrants.
- Pray for and support the Sharbaugh's ministry to international students in Indianapolis. You can support them here:

<https://donations.navigators.org/s/fund/a4e1Q000000UicYQAS/john-and-marissa-sharbaugh>

But we also need to examine our hearts...

- Are we calloused toward the needs of foreigners and strangers?
- Is our national identity more important than our heavenly citizenship?
- Christians can differ on how we think that the governments of the world should respond to migration and how the U.S. government should respond to illegal immigration.
But there are certain biblical truths that we cannot deny and there are certain Christian ethics that are not optional.

Ephesians 2:11-13 - ¹¹*Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*