



Part 7: Hot Topic – Immigration

Text: Matthew 25:31-46

1. Outside of the Bible, what are some other sources that influence our opinions on immigration? _____

2. Read **Matthew 25:31-46**.

a. What did Jesus say about how we should treat strangers? _____

b. What has been your definition of a stranger? _____

c. In the original Greek, the word “stranger” also means “alien, foreigner, exile from their own country, a person from another place.” Why is it important to understand this passage with this expanded definition of stranger? _____

3. In **Matthew 25:35** Jesus says, *“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”* Welcoming a stranger is hospitality, which, in Greek, literally means “to love strangers.” What are some ways we can be welcoming to strangers? _____

4. The Bible speaks often about God’s concern for the foreigner/immigrant right alongside two other vulnerable groups: orphans and widows. God’s concern is that his people would care for these vulnerable people groups.

a. How do you think our culture treats these three groups? _____

b. How do you think the church treats these three groups? _____

c. How do you treat these three groups? _____

5. How are immigrants just as vulnerable as widows and orphans? _____

6. Pastor Eric highlighted many foreigners/immigrants/refugees in the Bible. This included Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Ruth, David, Elijah, Daniel, and the persecuted church. Additionally, Jesus himself had no place to lay his head (Matthew 8:20). What importance does this have when we think about immigrants? _____

7. The United States of America is known as the “melting pot” because of our history of welcoming strangers/immigrants. From 1880 – 1920, there were millions of people allowed to enter the country and they were processed within a few hours. Today’s immigration process is much different; sometimes taking years and some say it is inconsistent, random, and broken. Once here legally, the language and cultural barriers coupled with the racial discrimination and disrespect can make life extremely challenging.

a. How might this help us to view immigrants with compassion today? _____

8. As Christians, we are foreigners and strangers here on Earth (**Hebrews 11:13-14, 1 Peter 2:11, Philippians 3:20**). How can remembering our identity help us welcome other strangers around us? _____

9. So, how does this translate to politics? _____

10. All political policies and plans need to consider protecting the well-being of our nation while also looking to “welcome the stranger.” Since the last major immigration reform happened in 1965, we should support the candidates and policies that do this best.

a. What obstacles keep you from participating in our political system when it comes to immigration? _____

11. Immigration is the greatest opportunity to reach the nations with the gospel without traveling across the ocean.

a. What stranger can you welcome today? _____
