



FAITH VOICES FOR IMMIGRANTS

IMMIGRATION SERMON OUTLINE

Paul's letter to the Ephesians 2:17-20 (NIV): He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.

- When we consider ourselves, most of us think of our citizenship in terms of our national identities – we are Americans and are proud to be American. For most of us, being an American is a privilege of birth that we obtained by the grace of God. Our country represents a melting pot of God's people, both native-born Americans and those who came to the United States to make better lives for themselves and their families — and in many cases, to deliver their families to safety. We are fellow citizens, community members in the eyes of the Lord, and in Paul's words, all God's people. We are a connected family, no matter where we were born.

Leviticus 19:33-34 (NIV): When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

- So what are we to say to those 24 out of every 25 people who were not blessed to be born in America? Is this a prize we keep to ourselves?
- The majority of those immigrating to the United States are fellow Christians, and many immigrants are attracted to the United States because of Christian principles/values.

Jesus would not tell us that our borders do not exist or matter. He would not tell us it is ok to disobey the laws of the land. He was aware of the differences between His fellow people of Israel and those from elsewhere.

But in **Hebrews 11:13-16**, we read these words:

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

- During our time on earth, God calls us to share His will of love, mercy, and compassion with our fellow brothers and sisters in faith. This does not mean an open door policy at our borders by any means. We have the opportunity before us to demonstrate His love to those here in the United States, to accept them, provide them a path to shine the light on them, and allow them to be part of our community of God, out of the shadows. We are called to see both the humanity and the Holy Spirit inside our worldly neighbors. How we treat those who aspire to become citizens of this country says a lot about how we ourselves behave as citizens of that “city” that God has prepared for us.