

Immigration

through the
Lens of Faith



Welcoming the Stranger: Immigration and the Church

Leviticus 19:33–34

When a foreigner lives with you in your land, don't take advantage of him. Treat the foreigner the same as a native. Love him like one of your own. Remember that you were once foreigners in Egypt. I am God, your God.

Micah 6:8

But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women.

It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love,
And don't take yourself too seriously — take God seriously.

Hebrews 13:2

Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it!

Matthew 25:34–40

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave

me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me — you did it to me.'

Questions for Reflection

What do these passages reveal to us about God's attitude toward the alien and the stranger?

What do these passages tell us our attitudes and actions to the alien and the stranger should be?

What are some common reasons why individuals and nations do not welcome the stranger? In light of the Scriptures, are these reasons satisfactory to you?

How do you as an individual feel called to respond to these Scriptures?

Can you think of three ways your faith community might encourage greater hospitality toward strangers?