



Go Deep
What Would Jesus Say About...
Immigration

9.29.19

*Have you studied your heritage through one of the “Ancestry.com” type companies?
What did you discover about yourself?*

What does it mean that the United States is a “nation of immigrants”?

American’s history with immigration is perplexing even paradoxical. For example:
Ben Franklin asked, “Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a Colony of Aliens? (He was bemoaning the fact that Germans were moving into his state. He didn’t like them.)

The Immigration Act of 1917 banned “all idiots, imbeciles, feebleminded, epileptics, insane persons, homosexuals...” from immigrating to the U.S.

The Saturday Evening Post regularly warned its readers of the “Immigration problem” and the danger of “racial degeneration”.

There was even talk of building a wall around the entire country.

How does Ecclesiastes 1:9 apply to this situation?

What does the Bible, and more specifically, Jesus, say about immigrants and immigration?

Let soak in these passages: Leviticus 19:33-34, Malachi 3:5.

What is the message for us in these verses? What immigration policy would be developed from them?

In [Matthew 25:31-46](#) Jesus talks about a Final Judgment, and what one has to do to escape punishment and receive a reward. *What are the requirements? What does Jesus say about the “stranger” (xenos)?*

Did you know the Bible talks about an illegal immigrant? See [Deuteronomy 23:3-6](#). Now look at [Ruth 1:22](#) and [Ruth 4:13](#).

Based on those passages, how do you describe Ruth the way Boaz treated her?

Fast forward the story, and you’ll learn that Ruth and Boaz gave birth to Obed, who was the grandfather of King David. And further on the family tree, guess who you find.

Read [Matthew 1:1](#).

Jesus is the son of David, the great-grandson of an illegal immigrant.

How does that fact shape your view of immigrants?

How does this study influence or even change the way we talk about and think about immigrants?