**Today is February 7, 2016**

**STRANGERS AMONG US**

**Immigrants and refugees present us with a situation that is confusing and complicated and chaotic. We find ourselves afraid and angry and unsure what to do.**

**The government has not been very helpful:**

**No doubt, there are real concerns…**

* Illegals really have broken the law.
* The borders have a lot of holes.
* We have an economic identity crisis.
* The citizenship process is complex and costly.
* Families are established.
* A genuine security threat:

**SO HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS THINK AND ACT IN THIS SITUATION?**

**Quiz:**

**1. Do we find immigrants and refugees in the Bible?**

**2. Are Christians ever described as aliens or strangers?**

**3. Should that fact influence how we see immigrants and refugees?**

**4. What Bible passages instruct us to fear, shun, mistreat, or otherwise demean foreigners or refugees?**

**5. Are there any texts that give us guidance on how to treat foreigners?**

**6. Which interpretive principles apply here?**

***Use the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Bible.***

***Build your theology and ethics on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ base.***

**A pivotal text provides a basis for our reflection on the biblical content:**

**Matthew 5:3-12**

**“Blessed (*fortunate, prosperous*) are the….**

**:3 “*the poor in spirit*…”**

Those who are not spiritually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Mt. 5:46-47

James 2:14-17

Mt. 19:30

**:4 “*those who mourn…”***

Those who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for this sorry situation.

**:5 “*the gentle…”***

Those who are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and meek.

Dt. 10:18-19

II Cor. 1:3-7

II Cor. 8:13-15; 9:6-8

**:6 “*those who hunger and thirst for righteousness…”***

Those who crave what is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Ex. 22:21; 23:9

Prov. 31:8-9

Jer. 22:3

**:7 “*the merciful…”***

Those who see a need and respond without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Mt. 25:35

Rom. 12:13

**:8 “*the pure in heart…”***

Those who see the other as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sees him.

Heb. 13:2

Heb. 12:14

Rev. 22:4

Mk. 12:30-31

**:9 “*the peacemakers…”***

Those who help \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ broken places.

Rom. 12:16-21; 14:19

Micah 6:8

**:10 “*the persecuted for sake of righteousness…because of Jesus…”***

Those who are willing to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because they know who holds their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Mt. 5:40-42

Mt. 10:23

Jn. 16:33

II Tim. 3:12

I Pet. 4:12-19; 5:9-10

**Imagine what would happen if all Christians were committed to live the radical life to which Jesus calls us.**

**Imagine the impact on the culture, on the government, on immigrants, on refugees—even refugees among whom may lurk terrorists—if they saw genuine Christianity in action.**