

One Lesson from the Road to Emmaus

When we _____ the resident alien,

and show _____ to the resident alien,

then our _____ are _____,

we see _____ in the resident alien,

and realize we are _____.

Digging Deeper

1. Read the following passages from the Hebrew Scriptures. What is the central message conveyed in these passages? What do they tell us about how God views foreigners? What do they tell us about how God wants his people to treat the foreigners in their midst?

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| Exodus 22:21 | Exodus 23:9 | Leviticus 19:33-34 |
| Numbers 15:15 | Deut. 10:19 & 24:17-22 | Psalms 146:9 |
| Jeremiah 7:5-7 | Ezekiel 47:22 | Zechariah 7:9-10 |

2. Read Matthew 25:31-46. What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about us (humans)?

What does this passage tell us about the relationship between us and God?

What does this passage tell us about the relationship between us and one another?

Taking It Home

3. What is the reason given in the above passages for why the Israelites are to welcome and not mistreat the foreigner? Why is this reason important to them?

We don't have the same reason, but there is a reason given in Scripture as to why we should see no difference between ourselves and the foreigner in our land. Read Leviticus 25:23. What is the reason according to this passage? Why should this reason matter for us today?

Are there other theological reasons you can think of for why we should welcome and not mistreat the foreigner? What Biblical passages or ideas would you cite to support those reasons?

4. Pastor Tim pointed out that the word Cleopas uses for Jesus (*paroikos*) doesn't refer to a visitor or tourist, but denotes a *resident* alien – someone from another country who lives among the native population but who is there without permission and who has no citizenship rights, but is accepted and welcomed by the native population nevertheless. Who are the *paroikos* among us today? Why is it important that we treat them the way the two disciples treated Jesus? What are some practical ways you can do this?