

Foreigners, Refugees

READING
Leviticus 19
John 13

Somewhere in your past, your family was new in the area.

I see a lot of headlines about White Supremacy, and Black Lives Matter, things like that. But I don't see many about "Love Your Neighbour". Why are they all about division? About not accepting people who are different to us?

All the way back in Leviticus. Written by Moshe, 4,500 years ago, we have the words of our God Yahweh.

"If a stranger lives as a foreigner with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who lives as a foreigner with you shall be to you as the native-born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you lived as foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am Yahweh your God."

2,500 years later, Yahweh's son Yeshua thought this was one of the most important things for us to do. In fact, he saw it as summarising the whole Jewish law. "Love one another". Not, love the ones born in the same suburb as you. Not, love the ones with the same skin colour as you. Not, love the ones from the same church as you.

Sure, I get it that it disrupts your life a bit when refugees come and live near you. But if you get to know them you might find some new friends. Or are you one of those Christians who wants them to go back where they came from and if they die, that's their problem? Of course, that probably also means you're white... and you're making a valid point that you should probably go back where you came from too. Even if your grandparents are from there, your own family were migrants once, in the not too distant past. We all were. No matter how you got where you are today. Somewhere in your past, your family was new in the area.

Wouldn't it have been great if the people who were there before you were nice to you? If they helped you settle into your new life there, which may or not have been by choice, but either way, you want to make the most of the new situation right? And you wanted to become part of the new community which included you.

I do agree, that we don't want them coming in and taking over, but most of them just want to survive. And to have a peaceful life for their children. Why not be the people you would have wanted the ones who were there before you to be, and welcome refugees and foreigners who have ended up near you?

Remember that WWJD movement of the 1900's? What would Yeshua do if he had been born where you were, and lived where you are today?

It's pretty unlikely that you're a klan member, and you dress up in your hooded cloak and try to drive them away. But just "not doing that" isn't "love them as you love yourself" is it?