

The Concurrently Companion



Episode 21: Immigration, Title 42, and Exodus 23

Topic Introduction

Title 42, a pandemic-era provision that allowed the United States to turn away migrants at the U.S./Mexico border on the basis of public health concerns, has now officially ended. As Title 42 neared its end, migrants flocked to the border. Facilities have been overwhelmed. Families have found themselves stuck in legal limbo. And in the midst of this, there have been new asylum rules coming from the Biden administration. These have also caused confusion. Once again, we're faced with all the complexities this issue brings. So what do we, as parents and educators, do with this topic of immigration?

Discussion

To help you in looking back, here are some keywords we used or defined:

immigration, migrants, asylum, politics, consensus, cultural intelligence, idols, sojourner, alien, stranger

These questions serve as launch points for your conversation at home or in the classroom and follow the thread of our discussion on today's episode of *Concurrently*:

Observe & Define

- » What does "cultural intelligence" mean and how does it inform our actions?
- » If you live in or have experience from outside of a North American context, how do people in your country, the country of your birth, or where you serve or have served, perceive the United States?
 - What do they find attractive?
 - What do they find puzzling or frustrating?
 - How is immigration handled in the cultural context of the country you have experienced outside of the United States?
 - How is U.S. immigration law and process viewed by the people of that country?
- » What responses have you observed regarding Title 42 coming to an end?
- » What complexities do you observe?
- » What are some different ways we might define politics? (Use a good dictionary and you will find at least five.)

Analyze

- » Do all cultures think, value, perceive things in the same way? Explain your answer.
- » How does it help us to look through another culture's perspective as we think about the things going on around us?
- » What questions do *you* have about immigration policy?
- » How does the idea of idolatry have anything to do with this subject matter?

Respond

- » What do mature Christians need to consider, in their own self examination, in this process?
- » How can we begin to see the other, the alien, the immigrant, the sojourner, as a whole person and image-bearer or a glorious ruin?
- » Where might you explore relationships with those who've either spent time overseas, maybe in the military, maybe as missionaries, or have come from a country outside of the U.S.?
- » Ask your children: What are you curious about regarding other people's lives and experiences? And what questions might you want to ask them?

Scriptural Anchors/Provision

Exodus 22:21-23

You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry.

Exodus 23:9

You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

From the episode

"There is room for disagreement on how the politics of immigration play out, but that unchanging love God has for those who are vulnerable—that is the thing we can unite around in our response, and everything else can be an outworking of that."

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