

Session 04

The Theology of a Stranger – Christians as Strangers in the World



Session Overview

1. The Theology of a Stranger – Introduction
2. The Theology of a Stranger – Solomon's prayer
3. The Theology of a Stranger – Jesus was an Immigrant
4. **The Theology of a Stranger – Christians as Strangers in the World**
5. The Theology of a Stranger – The Example of the Multicultural Congregation

Session Summary.

In this session, Dr. Beck reminds us that we, as followers of Jesus are foreigners in this world, and helps us to think through racism and persecution.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you felt like a foreigner and an exile here on earth because of living out your faith in Jesus Christ?

2. What does the city of Babylon represent in the Bible? In what ways have you seen the empire of Babylon at work where you live?

3. Racism is a reality of this world. In what ways have you experienced racism? How does Dr. Beck connect 1 Peter 2:9 with those oppressed by racism and offer encouragement to those experiencing it?

4. All skin tones were created by God, and are included in His good creation. Regardless of where we come from or what skin tone we have, we belong to God's nation. Thinking of our own cultural context, what can we do to for those who are oppressed by racism?

5. As church communities, what are some practical things we can do to make our communities welcoming and inclusive of people from all nations?

6. Do you feel like you live in exile here on earth because your home is in heaven, or is this something you have not yet experienced?

7. Have you experienced persecution for your faith in Jesus? What does persecution look like in your context?

8. Dr. Beck said we are going to face persecution as Christians because we will face the same treatment from the world that Jesus experienced. What does Stephen encourage us to remember as we live in the reality of persecution as followers of Christ? Share your thoughts on the reality of persecution and the hope we have through it.

9. In what ways does your lifestyle reflect that you are living as God's chosen race?

10. 1. What is your reaction when Dr. Beck said that immigrants and refugees are God's ambassadors?
