Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary Chapel Austin Surls

23 Sept 2024 OT Professor

**God Loves Foreigners**

***Luke 4:24-27***

**Topic:** Foreigners

**Subject:** How should we treat foreigners?

**Complement:** Accept all who come to Jesus.

**Purpose:** The listeners will accept all who come to Jesus.

# Introduction

### Interest: Too often, we reject people who are unlike us.

### Need: How do you treat foreigners?

### Subject: How should we treat foreigners?

### Background: Jesus preached in his hometown of Nazareth, where the people expected him to prove himself since he had grown up there.

### Preview: Jesus refers to two OT foreigners, so that we will examine these two stories.

### Text: Luke 4:24-27

# I. Elijah provided for a foreign widow instead of the widows in Israel.

## Elijah's hometown was in modern Jordan, but God sent him to Lebanon to prove that God loves foreigners as well as Jews (1 Kings 17:9-16).

## The widow gave credit to the LORD rather than to Baal.

# II. Elisha healed Naaman instead of a Jewish leper.

## Naaman was a great Syrian warrior, but a leper because God had punished Israel through him, as "through him the LORD had given Aram great victories" (2 Kings 5:1b).

## Naaman believed his Israelite servant girl that the God of Israel could heal him, though he must bathe in the dirty Jordan. After he did this and received healing, he praised the LORD (5:15).

# III. The stories share common elements.

## Foreigners gradually came to understand the truth of the true God.

## Foreigners confirmed the prophets.

## Israel needed to see God's acceptance of foreigners, as demonstrated by Rahab, Ruth, Uriah, the widow of Zarephath, and Naaman, among others.

# Conclusion

### God accepts all foreigners who come to him (Main Idea).

### Main Points

#### The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus, even as the nation at his time did (cf. John 1:11-12).

#### The same happened in the OT.

### Applications

#### Let's humbly pay attention to how God accepts foreigners.

#### Do not be proud like Naaman or like the people of Nazareth.

#### Before we trusted God, we were all foreigners without hope (Eph 2:14-15).