“No oprimirás al extranjero, porque ustedes conocen los sentimientos del extranjero, ya que ustedes *también* fueron extranjeros en la tierra de Egipto”. Éxodo 23:9

“You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you *also* were strangers in the land of Egypt”. Exodus 23:9

Some years ago, I made a decision that would change my life completely. It took a lot for me to be able to make it to the United States. I had to leave behind my family and my lifestyle. When I first arrived, it was difficult to start a whole new life in a completely different world. Not many people accepted us because they saw us as a threat. According to this verse in Exodus, we shouldn’t treat people poorly because they are not like us. Being an immigrant has not been easy. One of the hardest things I’ve faced here is finding a good and decent job. Most jobs available to us are back breaking, dirty and difficult, paying only minimum wage. It isn’t enough to support our families. Sometimes people get two jobs and hope it is enough. Having to work all the time just to maintain your family is tough. You find yourself constantly missing out on the lives of your children. You miss their games, concerts, and quality time with them. Fortunately for me, my kids are older now and I don’t have to worry as much because they are becoming good people and the older ones have jobs too.

Sometimes I wonder if leaving it all behind was worth it. But then I look at my children and I know it was one of the best decisions I ever made. Coming here gave my kids so many opportunities to have a better life than I did. We haven’t been in it alone. Ever since I came here I met so many wonderful people and I’ve developed great friendships. Our friends have helped me and my family through some very difficult times, and for that, I can’t thank them enough. Although being an immigrant has not been easy, I have always been able to rely on God to get me through the most difficult times. I know that anything is possible if you believe in God. Most people have heard about the Promised Land in the Bible, but what most fail to realize is that for an immigrant, this is our Promised Land.

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