

# Matthew 25:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

## Analysis

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**I was a stranger, and ye took me not in** (ξένος ἤμην καὶ οὐ συνηγάγετέ με, xenos ēmēn kai ou synēgagete me)—The verb synagō means to gather together, to receive into community. They excluded Christ by excluding the stranger. This condemns ethnic/tribal Christianity that draws boundaries around 'our kind.'

**Naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not** (γυμνὸς καὶ οὐ περιεβάλετέ με, ἀσθενὴς καὶ ἐν φυλακῇ καὶ οὐκ ἐπεσκεψασθέ με, gymnos kai ou periebalete me, asthenēs kai en phylakē kai ouk epeskepsasthe me)—The accumulation of negations creates relentless condemnation. These aren't extraordinary demands but basic human decency, which faith should intensify, not diminish.

## Historical Context

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Jesus's indictment mirrors the prophets' social justice oracles. Ezekiel condemned shepherds who fed themselves but not the flock: 'The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye... bound up that which was broken' (Ezekiel 34:4). Isaiah's famous rebuke: 'Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness... deal thy bread to the hungry... bring the poor that are cast out to thy house... cover the naked' (Isaiah 58:6-7).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does failure to welcome strangers reflect underlying tribalism or nationalism that contradicts the gospel?
2. What does systematic neglect of the vulnerable reveal about the reality (or unreality) of professed faith?
3. In what ways do Christian communities today exclude the very people Christ identifies with?

## Interlinear Text

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ξένος	ἦμην	καὶ	οὐκ	συνηγάγετέ	με	γυμνὸς	καὶ	οὐκ
<b>a stranger</b>	<b>I was</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>me</b>	<b>naked</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>not</b>
G3581	G2252	G2532	G3756	G4863	G3165	G1131	G2532	G3756
περιεβάλετέ	με	ἀσθενὴς	καὶ	ἐν	φυλακῇ	καὶ	οὐκ	
<b>ye clothed</b>	<b>me</b>	<b>sick</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>prison</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>not</b>	
G4016	G3165	G772	G2532	G1722	G5438	G2532	G3756	
ἐπεσκέψασθέ	με							
<b>ye visited</b>	<b>me</b>							
G1980	G3165							