



IN THE SHADOW OF EXILE,
HOPE BECAME THEIR HOME.

BETWEEN BORDERS



SERMON OUTLINE

Seeking Peace, Finding Jesus

A sermon outline based on the movie **BETWEEN BORDERS**

Written by Reverend Paul Pickern

Key Scriptures: Luke 10:25-37, Ephesians 2:12-19

Introduction:

In our world today, people everywhere are seeking peace. It is common when asking beauty pageant contestants what's the one change you would like to see in the world, and it is most often answered, "worldwide peace". The United Nations primary function is to preserve "peace". (not saying they have been successful) It is safe to say that everyone in our service today wants to have peace in their life!

The word of God is full of the history of good versus evil, peace and turmoil, love and hate, and many examples of people who suffered through this history.

It is in God's word where we can find real peace. Today we are going to look at what the Scriptures tell us about finding this peace while reflecting on the modern-day life of the Petrosyan family who was forced to flee from their home in Azerbaijan. This beautiful family loved their home, but their country fell apart due to communism, and they were forced to flee. After watching the movie **BETWEEN BORDERS**, which is about the life of the Petrosyan family, we were moved to share this special message of finding real peace!

Let's Get Started:

We live in a world marked by borders. Some are geographical, some are cultural, and others are spiritual. The movie **BETWEEN BORDERS** tells the story of individuals fleeing oppression, hardship, and seeking hope in a new land. As we reflect on their struggles, we are reminded of the children of Israel as they were escaping from 400 years of slavery and the oppression they endured by the Egyptian task masters and more importantly, we see parallels with the journey of the Christian faith—a journey from a broken, sinful world into the Kingdom of God.

The movie highlights themes of compassion, sacrifice, and the universal longing for redemption. Today, we'll explore how these themes echo through Scripture, reminding us of our calling as followers of Christ.

Their Struggle for Refuge: A Picture of Humanity's Spiritual Condition

In **BETWEEN BORDERS**, the Petrosyan family risks everything, fleeing war, persecution, and poverty. They leave behind the familiar, enduring unimaginable hardships for the hope of something better. Even when they reached a friendly country, the trials they faced were unimaginable. They needed a miracle, and they got it. Sometimes we all do!

This struggle mirrors our spiritual reality before Christ. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:12: "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

Like the Petrosyans, humanity is spiritually lost and roaming aimlessly in a broken world, alienated from God. Sin separates us, but Jesus Christ (the Prince of peace)) is the bridge that brings us into God's open arms.

Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan

One of **BETWEEN BORDERS** central lessons is the power of compassion. The characters who extend help to those in need demonstrate the transformative love that changes lives. This reflects the parable of the Good Samaritan in **Luke 10:25-37**. When asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus tells the story of a Samaritan who cared for a wounded traveler when others passed by. The Samaritan showed mercy, regardless of race or nationality. Jesus tells us to do the same:

"Go and do likewise"

- Luke 10:37

In the movie, those who risk their safety to help others embody this Christlike love. We see a caring American church leave the comfort of West Virginia to start a church in a communist controlled environment. These people stepped out of their comfort zone and shared God's love without expecting anything in return. For us, this means we too should step beyond our comfort zones, crossing borders of prejudice or fear, and embracing the hurting, dirty and the lost. Sometimes even risking our life for others!

Each of us must ask ourselves, are we willing to be the Good Samaritan to those in need—whether they are physically or spiritually displaced?

Reflecting Christ's Love

Another emotional moment "in the movie" is the personal sacrifices made to save others. Those who risk their lives remind us of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us.

In **John 15:13**, Jesus says:

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

This love is costly, but it’s also redemptive. The cross was Jesus’ ultimate act of love—He crossed the greatest border of all, stepping out of heaven to rescue us.

In our lives, sacrifice might require giving our time, resources, or even our pride to help others. By doing so, we reflect the heart of Christ and point people to Him.

A New Citizenship in God’s Kingdom

Just like each of us who wants peace in our lives, so does the Petrosyan family. When Ivan (the father) and Violetta (the mother) start trusting God, their faith opens the door for a new home where they can live without fear. In Christ, we find the ultimate belonging.

Philippians 3:20 reminds us:

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Through Christ, we are no longer spiritual exiles. **Ephesians 2:19** declares:

“You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.”

This is the hope we have in the Gospel—a place where there are no borders, no walls, and no divisions, only the love and peace within God’s family.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

When we serve others—whether by welcoming strangers, feeding the hungry, or sharing the Gospel—we serve Christ Himself.

What is our lesson today and how can we apply it to our lives?

1. See **BETWEEN BORDERS**: Ask God to open your eyes to the needs around you. Who in your life is longing for hope, love, or belonging?
2. **Extend Compassion**: Be willing to cross cultural, social, or personal boundaries to demonstrate God's love.
3. **Proclaim the Gospel**: The ultimate hope we offer is not just physical relief but eternal life through Jesus Christ.

As Paul says in **2 Corinthians 5:20**:

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."
We are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation, bringing others into God's Kingdom.

Today we must ask ourselves

1. How do I treat people who are different from me, the suffering, homeless, and the lost?
2. Am I a good neighbor?
3. Do I have the real Peace of God inside of me?

Reverend Paul Pickern and wife Linda founded All Pro Pastors International Ministry, a ministry that encourages and challenges Pastors to join together as Kingdom Brothers to develop trust, accountability and unity. Paul speaks to thousands of pastors each year through Conferences, Lunches, Ministerial Meetings, Radio Programs, Videos, and Simulcasts. Paul comes from a deep heritage of several generations of Pastors. Rev. Pickern has also served as an ordained staff pastor and today is considered a Pastor to Pastors.