



LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL
lubbockonline.com

When it comes to immigration, read the Gospel of Matthew

July 7, 2018

Regarding the recent editorial in Lubbock Avalanche-Journal (Editorial: Comparing crime rate of illegals/U.S. citizens is illogical, July 3, www.lubbockonline.com), what a treat to hear a wonderful concert of patriotic and spiritual music at the First United Methodist Church on July 2.

Included was a poem by Emma Lazarus set to music, words as if from the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

Those words flashed back as I read the A-J editorial criticizing Cokie Roberts’ and Steve Roberts’ adjoining column. The Roberts’ column, quoting the Cato Institute, the journal *Criminology*, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and the *Wall Street Journal* disproves the idea that immigrants cause crime in major numbers. It validates immigrants’ importance to our current workforce and to our continued economic growth and future work force as our native-born birth rate continues to decline.

The United States needs, as the editorial correctly said, to provide a legal, safe, and transparent way to determine who is coming into the country. Adequate funding must be provided for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and for many more judges to hear cases.

Many who want to be here are hard-working asylum-seekers fleeing terrible conditions. Their asylum-seeking is not illegal.

We who take seriously the admonition of the New Testament’s Gospel of Matthew 25:45-46 need to contact our elected representatives to stop incarcerating and criminalizing asylum seekers, and to provide emergency immigration funding to handle this crisis adequately.