

## **Maggid: The Bread of Affliction**

### **Slavery in America**

17,000 people from 35 countries are trafficked into the United States and enslaved each year. They come on the promise of a better life. Many come in the hope of earning enough money to support their families. They do not knowingly come to be enslaved.

They are in all 50 states, working as farm hands, domestic servants, sweatshop and factory laborers, gardeners, restaurant and construction workers, and victims of sexual exploitation. To afford the journey, they pay their life savings and go into debt to people who make promises they have no intention of keeping. Instead of opportunity, they arrive to find bondage. These are not poorly paid employees working at jobs they may not like. They exist specifically to work, they are unable to leave, and they are forced to live under the constant threat and reality of violence. They are no longer in control of their own lives. By definition, they are slaves. We have renamed it human trafficking, but it is just the modern incarnation of the slave trade.

Native born Americans are not immune from slavery. The U.S. government estimates hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens - primarily children – are at risk of being enslaved each year, yet it is largely a crime that goes unpunished.

*The Slave Next Door*