

Did Jesus come at the beginning of His ministry to only save the Jews?

Jesus healed a gentile woman's daughter (Mt 15:21-28). He reminded her that his ministry was to the Jews not the gentiles (vv. 24-26). She accepted his explanation; but asked to be blessed by some of the crumbs that fell from Israel's spiritual table (v. 27). The Lord obliged (v. 28).

The lost sheep of the house of Israel were to be fed before the "little dogs", or gentiles (v. 26). He drew out an expression of faith from her (v. 27). Perry Stone said, "In the process of miracles you have to not only believe something; but, you have to do something in order to receive."¹

The Lord did not forbid preaching to gentiles; but, his disciples were to first take the gospel to his covenant people in nearby regions (Mt 10:5). The apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek (Ro 1:16)."

Israel was supposed to evangelize the world; but, they failed in their task because they did not recognize their Messiah (Lk 13:35).

The Lord lamented. He wanted to gather them under his wings of protection at that time; but, they would not allow it (Lk 13:34). The Jews would remain in unbelief until the Millennium (v. 35b).

Today Christians take his message to unredeemed men throughout the world (Mk 16:15) until the fullness of the gentiles has come in (Ro 11:25). The Lord will then return to address Israel (Dan 9).

Paul said, "For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham (Ro 9:6-7)." God has always had a remnant; but, Paul made a distinction between Jacob's natural offspring and spiritual offspring.

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23-24)."

In Christ today there is "neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all (Col 3:11)."

¹ The law of miracles: The law of faith (believe something), the law of action (do something), the law of obedience (follow something) [e.g. "Stretch forth your hand (Mt 12:13)", "Take up your bed and walk (Jn 5:8)"]. Stone, Perry. How to Pray and Believe for Miracles. Episode 966. 8 Apr 19: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ramHicoaw24&t>