

Why did Jesus say He was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel?

Jesus Sent to Israel

The [Bible](#) narrates the story that, “a Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, ‘Lord, [Son of David](#), have mercy on me! My daughter is [demon](#)-possessed and suffering terribly’” ([Matthew 15:22](#)). As the woman continued to plead for mercy, [Jesus](#) finally answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel” (verse 24). But the woman instead of getting discouraged by His statement, she showed great [faith](#) and [Jesus](#) granted her request and healed her daughter (verse 28).

Christ ministered primarily among the Jews at first but He purposed to reach the whole world through His disciples. [God](#) did not [love](#) the Jews more than the [Gentiles](#). [God](#)’s aim was that the Jews may be a tool to reach and save the [Gentiles](#). And He told [Moses](#) that the purpose of revealing His mighty deeds to Israel was that “He might show His power, and that His name may be declared in all the [earth](#)” ([Exodus 9:16](#)). The [Messiah](#) was to be a “light for the [Gentiles](#)” ([Isaiah 42:6](#))

Sadly, the religious leaders considered themselves to be elite because of the special grace [God](#) had bestowed on them in the giving of the Mosaic Law. It was not until after Christ had ascended to [heaven](#) that Jewish Christians fully grasped the fact that God considered all men everywhere eligible to become citizens of the kingdom of [heaven](#) ([Acts 9:9–18](#), [Acts 9:32–35](#); [Acts 10:1–48](#); [Acts 15:1–29](#); [Romans 1:16](#); [Romans 9:24](#); etc.).

In God’s eyes, the Jews were no greater than the Gentiles.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” ([Romans 3:23](#)). God did not favor any particular nation over another. [Paul](#) said, “there is no partiality with God” ([Romans 2:11](#)). And [Paul](#) told the Athenians that God “hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the [earth...](#)” ([Acts 17:26-27](#)). The Scriptures confirm “Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too” ([Romans 3:29](#)).

And although Jesus’ ministry was among the Jews, when occasion came His way, He also blessed the Gentiles with the blessings He granted His own people. Jesus healed a Roman centurion’s servant ([Luke 7:1-10](#)), traveled to bless the [Gentile](#) region of the Gerasenes ([Mark 5:1](#)), and preached the truth to the Samaritans (John 4).