

Jesus' call to the nations, Part I

by Jeff Lewis

Week fifteen

Early in His ministry Jesus clearly communicated that He was the Messiah and that He had come to be the Savior of the World. Jesus had less than three years to liberate His Jewish disciples from their nationalistic cultural biases. It was vital for the disciples to realize that the gospel of the kingdom is for all peoples and that His mandate was to the nations, not to a nation. Today you will continue to observe how Jesus awakened His disciples to His global purpose.

What is the significance of these events and when it applies, what was Jesus trying to communicate?

Ministry to non-Jews

- Matthew 4:23-25
- Matthew 15:21-28—Be careful how you interpret this event. In Matthew 15:1-20, Jesus had just taught on the subject of what is clean and unclean. Notice where he took the disciples. Remember what Matthew 4:24 reveals about Jesus' ministry to Gentiles. In Matthew 15:24, who was Jesus speaking to when He made this statement? Selah
- John 4:5-42—Gentiles and Samaritans are used as object lessons to shake up the cultural bias of the Jews.
- Matthew 8:5-13
- Luke 10:30-36
- Luke 17:11-19

Meditate this week about what Jesus was trying to communicate to these two audiences. How does that message affect you today?