

## He Had Time

2. *They were angry, in the second place, with Christ's universalism.* The Jews were God's chosen people. There are senses in which instructed Gentiles readily concede this even today. They had a spiritual mission to the whole world. But it became a source of great national pride in them, and especially in the Pharisees. They spoke out from the crowds sometimes, and challenged the teaching of Jesus by saying: "We be children of Abraham," and he had need to make the most trenchant replies to that deep nationalism in them.

He was swift to recognize the half-truth in what they said. He always conceded that it was to the Jews that he had come first. Most certainly! Only among them *could* he have been born, and his mission was primarily to them—but not to them only. The implications of his message were universal. Beginning at Jerusalem, it was to encompass the wide world. No racial inferiorities are compatible with his teaching. People who want to preach doctrines of racial superiority and inferiority must look elsewhere for their authority. It cannot be found in Jesus Christ. He had time for the Samaritan woman at the well. He had time for the Syrophenician woman also. Before the Cross, the coming of the Greeks to him lifted up his shadowed spirit.

The Pharisees were angry with him because he seemed to deprecate the separateness and spiritual superiority of their race.

(They Met At Calvary: Were You There . . . by W. E. Sangster, New York: Abingdon Press, MCMLVI, 17; From Chapter I, The Teachers Who Hated Him)