

Q1: Why would Jesus call the woman (who was a Gentile) a dog if God's intention was always for the gospel to be accessible for Jews and Gentiles alike? It sounds rude.

Mark 7:24 And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden.

Marj 7:25 But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet.

Mark 7:26 Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

Mark 7:27 And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, **for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.**"

Mark 7:28 But she answered him, "**Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.**"

Mark 7:29 And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter."

Mark 7:30 And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Fellowship:

In Matt. 16:21-23 Lord's response to one of Peter's speaking was even more serious "Get behind me, Satan" . I consider that 1. this was a test (for Peter); please see next page; 2. Lord knew Peter who would benefit from His speaking which was very rough. Certainly, we also benefit from His speaking in this age.

Matt. 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Matt. 16:22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

Matt. 16:23 But **he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!** You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

1st Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. **God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability**, but with the **temptation** he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2nd Cor. 12:9 But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Matt. 4:1 Then **Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.**

Matt. 4:2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

In our life Satan and his associates always tries to tempt us using the fleshy world, materials world and religious world. Satan also tempted Jesus in Matt. 4:1-2. In 2nd Cor. 12:9 tells us that Lord’s grace is always sufficient for us during Satan’s temptation.

2nd Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test** yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that **Jesus Christ is in you?** unless indeed you fail to meet the **test!**

2nd Cor. 13:6 I hope you will find out that **we have not failed the test.**

2nd Cor. 13:7 **But we pray to God that you may not do wrong**—not that we may appear to have met the **test**, but that **you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.**

In our life Lord always grant tests to us so that we may grow in His life. In 2nd Cor. 13:6-7 tell us that we need to turn to the Lord Who is in us during these tests and do not pay attention whether we pass the tests or not.

Luke 22:28 “You (apostles) are those who have stayed with me (Jesus) in my **trials**,

Acts 20:19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with **trials** that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

Gal. 4:13-14 You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, and **though my (Paul’s) condition** was **a trial** to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus.

In our life we may meet trials. To me, the saints in serious illnesses are trials to me. When saints are in trials, we need to closely care for and stand by them.

Q2: Why was the woman's reply a good answer according to the Lord?

Fellowship:

Jesus said that I am not your Lord, I am the Lord of the Jews, I am the lord of the Israelites, and I am a loaf, and this loaf of mine is for my children, I can't take my children's bread and throw it to a gentile dog like you (woman). **Dogs are unclean in the sight of God. (Lev. 11:27)** and all that walk on their paws, among the animals that go on all fours, are unclean to you.)

The woman answered, "Yes, I am a Gentile, indeed a Gentile dog, despised, and it has nothing to do with the kingdom of God", but, Lord, you have come to the regions of the Gentiles, You are like a good piece of bread, which was not cherished by the Jews and was thrown out, and now I, a gentile dog, can eat the crumbs of the bread.

The holy place of the children of Israel was like the table, on which was Christ, the heavenly bread, for the portion of the children of Israel; but they threw Him under the table, and fell on the earth, the land of the gentiles, so that the Lord became crumbs, for the Gentiles. It was amazing that this gentile woman had such an understanding at that time! No wonder Jesus praised her for her faith. I believe that Jesus foreknew her faith.

Yes, the woman admitted that she was as low as a dog, but Jesus' living was even lower as the crumbs for the dogs.

Mark 7:31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

Mark 7:32 And they brought to him a man **who was deaf and had a speech impediment**, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.

Mark 7:33 And taking him aside from the crowd privately, **he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue.**

Mark 7:34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”

Mark 7:35 And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Q3: Why did the Lord use his saliva to heal the deaf/mute man - this physical aspect of the healing is unlike the other healing miracles he had performed until now?

Fellowship:

To smear his tongue with saliva signifies that **the words that come out of Jesus' mouth are used to smear the speaking organs of the dumb.** This is His healing approach at that time (**Mark 7:33 and Mark 8:23**).

Mark 8:22 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a **blind man** and begged him to touch him.

Mark 8:23 And he took **the blind man** by the hand and led him out of the village, and **when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?”**

Mark 8:24 And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.”

Mark 8:25 **Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again**; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.