

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2005**

**TITLE OF PAPER** : **THE GOSPEL TRADITION**

**COURSE CODE** : **T4P2/IDE-T4P2**

**TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**

**MARKS** : **100**

**INSTRUCTIONS** : **1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.**  
**2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

**THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

**QUESTION 1**

“The similarities between Matthew, Mark and Luke are so numerous and so close, not just in order of material presented but also in the exact wording of long stretches of text, that it is not sufficient to explain these similarities on basis of common oral tradition. Rather some literary dependence must be assumed. That is, someone copied from someone else” (Felix Just, 2004).

- (a) How does the four source hypothesis explain the interrelationship?
- (b) Identify THREE features in the synoptic gospels which support the priority of Mark.

**QUESTION 2**

Discuss the main features of the theology of Q.

**QUESTION 3**

Explain the Gospel of Thomas' attitude to family, wealth and women.

**QUESTION 4**

Show how knowledge of the social and political situation in Palestine at the time of Jesus contributes to our understanding of the Temptation of Jesus.

**QUESTION 5**

“By his teaching and example, Jesus adopted a revolutionary attitude to women”. Discuss.

**QUESTION 6**

Discuss the view that the miracles which Jesus performed are signs of the kingdom of God in action.

**QUESTION 7**

Study these statements.

- (a) “Parables are true to life and nature” (C.H. Dodd).
  - (b) “Some parables contain features which conflict with daily experience” (Eta Linnemann).
- With examples, show the meaning of the two statements and try to reconcile them.

**QUESTION 8**

Discuss the meaning and significance of the transfiguration of Jesus.

**QUESTION 9**

Briefly discuss Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem, his action in the Temple and show whether or not these events might have played any role in his arrest, trial and crucifixion.

**QUESTION 10**

"The gospel writers emphasize a physical resurrection of Jesus". Comment.