

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 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

Read the following passage from Luke 1: 1-4.

‘TO THEOPHILUS: Many writers have undertaken to draw up an account of the events that have taken place among us, 2 following the traditions handed down to us by the original eyewitnesses and servants of the gospel 3. So I in my turn, as one who has investigated the whole course of these events in detail, have decided to write an orderly narrative for you, your excellency, 4 so as to give you authentic knowledge about the matters of which you have been informed.

Explain the three stages in the formation of the Gospel Tradition.

QUESTION 2

“Mark’s order is generally supported by both Matthew and Luke. Where one departs, the other maintains support” (Sanders and Davies).

- (a) Explain the Synoptic Problem.
- (b) How does the ‘two gospel’ hypothesis explain the interrelationship?

QUESTION 3

With examples, comment on Q’s attitude to “this generation” and “gentiles”.

QUESTION 4

That Jesus was born in a manger symbolized his identification with the poor and marginalized. Discuss.

QUESTION 5

Discuss the theological meaning of the baptism of Jesus.

QUESTION 6

During the temptation, Jesus rejected being a miracle worker; however the gospel writers give prominence to Jesus’ healing ministry. Why, according to the gospels, did Jesus perform miracles?

QUESTION 7

“Those written here have been recorded in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this faith you have life by his name” (John 20:31). Discuss the origins and meaning of the title *Christos* or Son of God.

QUESTION 8

“The historical Jesus is a product of pious imagination” (G.A. Wells). Comment.

QUESTION 9

Discuss the parable of EITHER the Hired Labourers (Mt. 20:1 - 16) OR the Vineyard (Mark 12: 1-11) OR the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37).

QUESTION 10

Examine the centrality of the Crucifixion in the gospels.