

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

FINAL EXAMINATIONS, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER : THE GOSPEL TRADITION

COURSE CODE: T4P2/IDE-T4P2

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

MARKS: 100

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS
2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

T4P2 (M), 2006

1. (a) Identify any THREE features of the relationship between the synoptic gospels which support the priority of Mark.
(b) What alternative solution does the 'Two Gospel Hypothesis' offer?
2. "I do indeed think that we can now know almost nothing concerning the life and personality of Jesus, since the early Christian sources show no interest in either ... and the other sources do not exist" (Bultmann, R. *Jesus and the Word*. Scribners, 1954). To what extent is this a justified conclusion of the Quest for a Historical Jesus?
3. EITHER (a) Compare and contrast the attitudes of Q and Thomas Christians to ritual, wealth and family.
OR (b) "In Q, the sayings of Jesus preach an ethic that is based on homelessness. The call to discipleship meant renouncing any permanent abode. The people who are called leave their boats and their fields, their custom houses and their houses". Discuss.
4. (a) Comment on Jesus' visit to the Temple at the age of 12 (Luke 2).
(b) To what extent does the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas* complement the Lukan account?
5. Explain the meaning and the messianic character of **either** the baptism **or** the Temptation of Jesus.
6. Choose ONE Christological title and explain its origins, meaning and application to Jesus.
7. Comment on ONE of the following pericopes.
(a) The healing of the Centurion's servant (Q 7: 1- 10).
(b) A daughter of Abraham (Luke 13: 10-17).
(c) The Wheat and Tares (Mt 13: 24-30).
(d) Parable of the Vineyard (Mk 12: 1-12).
8. "Jerusalem is the source of opposition and it is there that Jesus ultimately meets his fate" (Freyne S. *Galilee, Jesus and the Gospels*. Fortress Press, 1985; p.219). Discuss the nature and grounds of this opposition.
9. Discuss the Johannine passion of Christ using the model of honour and shame in the Ancient Near Eastern culture.
10. Discuss the centrality of the Empty Tomb in the Christian faith.