

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS, JULY 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.

1. (a) What features of the Synoptic Problem led to the Q hypothesis?
(b) Explain how the **triple tradition** provides a solution to the Synoptic Problem?
2. "No period of history has been able to pin down Jesus to a single image. Even during his lifetime, people had different ideas about Jesus" (Barrett D. *An Introduction to the New Testament...* Cambridge, 2002; p.258). Discuss.
3. Assess the extent to which evidence from the non-Christian sources supports the historicity of Jesus.
4. "The Q Christians saw themselves in a situation of conflict. Consequently, there are instances of polemic against 'this generation' and this polemic is based on their self-understanding as a prophetic community". Discuss.
5. Explain why Jesus wanted to be baptized, why John was reluctant to baptize him and the significance of the phenomena which immediately followed his baptism.
6. "According to the model of social stratification of ancient societies, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of the members of the Jesus movement came from the rural lower stratum" (Stegemann E. *The Jesus Movement*. Fortress Press, 1999; p.203). Show to what extent this is reflected in the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16: 19-31).
7. Discuss the role of miracles in the public ministry of Jesus.
8. Examine the relationship between Jesus and the Pharisees according to the gospels.
9. EITHER (a) "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mk 2:27). Discuss the circumstances that led to this pronouncement.

OR (b) (i) In what THREE major aspects does John's portrait of Jesus differ from that of the synoptic gospels?
(ii) What are the special emphases of John's Christology?
10. "It seems clear that Jesus confronted, possibly for the first time and only time, with the Temple's rich magnificence, symbolically destroyed its perfectly legitimate brokerage function Such an act, if performed in the volatile atmosphere of the Passover, would have been quite enough to entail crucifixion" (Crossan D. *The Historical Jesus*. T & T Clark, 1991; p.xii). To what extent does the Cleansing of the Temple explain the arrest, trial and the subsequent crucifixion of Jesus?