

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
&
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

TRS 403 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2015

**TITLE OF PAPER : Gospel Tradition II
COURSE CODE : TRS 403
DURATION : 2 Hours**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose and **answer three (3) questions in all.**
2. Write in **clear, grammatically correct sentences.**
3. The paper consists of **three (3) printed pages including the cover page.**
4. **All questions carry equal marks.**

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.

TRS 403 Gospel Tradition II, (S) July 2015

Question 1

Apply your knowledge of narrative criticism in reading Marks' story of the Healing of the Paralytic provided below. [20]

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man (Mark 2: 1- 12)

2 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?" ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Question 2

To what extent do you agree with some Catholics' claim that the Veil of Veronica is a true representation of Jesus' face miraculously imprinted on a piece of cloth shortly before his execution? [20]

Question 3

What does the passage provided below indicate about Jesus' thinking about "family values"? How best could you explain the "anti-family" sentiments displayed in this passage?

⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." (Luke 12: 51-53, NIV).

Question 4

Do you think Judas Iscariot was as bad as he is painted by the gospel writers? What were the motives of these writers for assassinating his character? Support your views with evidence from the gospel tradition. [20]

Question 5

What are the most conspicuous historical problems surrounding the chronology of the trials of Jesus in the gospels? How could the discrepancies be explained? [20]

Question 6

What are your views pertaining to The Da Vinci Code's claims that the followers of Jesus regarded him as "a great and powerful man, but a *man* nonetheless" and that it was not until the time of Emperor Constantine he was deified? What implications do these claims have on present-day Christianity? [20]