

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

MAIN EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2018

TITLE OF PAPER : Gospel Tradition I
COURSE CODE : TRS 402
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 402 Gospel Tradition I, (M) November 2018

Question 1

Explain why Ehrman (2008:236) thinks that the gospel accounts, in many instances, “are quite obviously legendary, written for entertainment, edification, or even instruction for the readers.” [20]

Question 2

Do you think the tradition about Jesus mentioned in several independent documents is likely to be more historical than that reported in only one gospel? [20]

Question 3

Discuss the rationale for looking at all surviving ancient narratives when determining which stories about Jesus are historically reliable. [20]

Question 4

Explain, in detail, ways in which redaction critics establish how Matthew and Luke altered their sources. [20]

Question 5

With reference to at least three parables, discuss Jesus’ understanding of the Kingdom of God. [20]

Question 6

Attempt a critical reading of the pericopae provided taken from John 9:1-12: [20]

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." ¹⁰ They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Silo'am and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." (John 9:1-12, RSV).