

University of Eswatini
Faculty of Humanities &
Department of Theology and Religious Studies
Institute of Distance Education

2020/2021 Examination Paper (First Semester) April 2021

Course Code : TRS 402
Title of Paper : Gospel Tradition I
Duration : 2 (Two) Hours

Instructions:

- a. Answer three (3) questions.
- b. Your answer to each question must be structured and consistently focused on the subject matter at hand.
- c. Indicate on the front cover page of your answer script the name of your programme of study and whether you are studying full time or through the Institute of Distance Education.

NB: All questions carry equal marks.

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

TRS 402: Gospel Tradition I (M) February 2021

Question 1

Explain why it makes more sense to read the traditions of Jesus within their Greco-Roman context.

Question 2

Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the criterion of dissimilarity as one of the methods of deciphering the authentic words of Jesus.

Question 3

Point out what we can say about the life of Jesus and that of his followers from the gospel tradition.

Question 4

To what extent do you agree with the view that the Gospels are theological documents?

Question 5

With the aid of examples from the gospel tradition, explain the meaning of any three parables of Jesus.

Question 6

Write a critical commentary of this extract taken from Luke 12: 4 - 12.

⁴“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has power to cast into hell;^[a] yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

⁸“And I tell you, every one who acknowledges me before men, the Son of man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; ⁹ but he who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. ¹⁰ And every one who speaks a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. ¹¹ And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious how or what you are to answer or what you are to say; ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”