

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

TRS 301 MAIN EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2016

**TITLE OF PAPER : STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT I
COURSE CODE : TRS 301
DURATION : 2 HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. All questions carry equal marks.

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

Question 1

Discuss the presentation of Jesus in the Gospel according to Mark. Give relevant passages in support of your response. [20]

Question 2

Explain, in detail, the portrayal of Jews and Gentiles in the Gospel According to Matthew. [20]

Question 3

With reference to any selected passages, explain ways in which Matthew and Luke reworked the tradition in Mark suggesting possible reasons for doing so. [20]

Question 4

Explain ways in which the following version of the Feeding of the Five Thousand in John compares with that in the synoptic tradition. [20]

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6: 1 -14)

6 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Question 5

Explain what you understand by the following terms in your reading of biblical texts: (a) high context and (b) low context. Support your answer giving relevant examples. [20]

Question 6

Discuss the nature of tensions and disagreements which arose in early Christian communities as reported in the Acts of the Apostles. [20]