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Discuss complications caused by oral communication per the textbook.

### Complications caused by oral communication

Oral communication was used by ancient Christians to preach the Gospel. Most people in the early church could not read or write. Only an estimated 4 percent of the population of the Greco-Roman world of the first century were literate. Because of their literacy they use oral communication to preach the Gospel. During their preaching, they would explain some part of their preaching by telling stories about Jesus.

Our textbook written by Keith Nickle stated that there were complications with oral communication when using the Jesus stories. The early church uses forms to remember and pass down the stories of Jesus. There were multiple theologies about Jesus. There were no set guide lines on how to use the stories, when to use them, and where to use them. The Jesus stories were used by the early church who when telling them give different meanings to them.

I believe complications were developed with the forms of the Jesus stories. The Jesus stories were first told in Aramaic before they were recorded in the Gospel. As Christianity, advanced and became mainly Greek-speaking, Gentile oriented church, the stories of Jesus were translated from Aramaic to Greek and the culture was changed from Semitic to Hellenistic. I believe the changing of the language also cause a change in the forms of the stories.

Another complication was because there were many theologies about Jesus by the early Christians. The arrays of theological views affect the church's use of the Jesus stories because everyone views the stories in their own way. Different meanings were placed to a story by different people who see Jesus in a different light. An example of this is (Mark 11:15-19) if someone views Jesus as a prophet as the great prophets of the Jewish Scriptures, it was

interpreted He was trying to restore purity to Jewish religious worship. On the other hand, it meant something very different to someone who believed He was the Messiah. To that person, it meant that Jesus was preparing the outer Temple area for the peoples of all nations who were to come streaming to Zion at the end of this age.

There was, even more, complication as the early church used the stories of Jesus with great liberty. They would use a Jesus story in several different ways. An example is the account of Jesus baptism found in Mark 1:9-11. They used this account to help clarify the divine source of His lordly authority, and it is also useful in instructing new convert about the meaning of baptism. It helped explain the church's belief that Christians also received the Holy Spirit at baptism.

## References

Nickle, K. F. (2001). *The Synoptic Gospels: an introduction*. Louisville, KY, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press.