

Catherine Frazier

Week 4, 9/16/2017

Complication Caused by Oral Communication

[CITATION Nic01 \l 1033] States, “In the process of the transmission and development of the oral tradition it was neither practical, practical, possible, nor appropriate for the first Christians to maintain careful distinction between Spirit-inspired community constructions and authentic historical reminiscence. It is unfair and insensitive for us to expect early Christians to have valued and passed on exactly those traditions which are of special interest to our contemporary curiosity. It is equally unfair for us to expect them to have preserved classifications of Jesus traditions governed by criteria that had not been defined until the post-enlightenment development of modern historiography. Yet that is exactly what we demand when we want to know of a particular tradition. “Did Jesus really say (or do) this?”

I can understand with this reasoning how one might draw complication caused by oral communication. However, the question must be asked, does the listener believe the story? Or is the disbelief is the storyteller? Telling bible stories can sound fiction when speaking to a culture that speaks a different language, falls under the title (unbeliever). Belief is a choice, just like faith. NASA can send a man into space, but God can't send Jesus to earth? Most people only believe what they can touch with their hands and see with their own eyes.

Most people don't understand what Spirit-inspired means. Maybe because it's not easy to explain. The Synoptic Gospels, speaks to us from the eye witness points of view. The book of John does the same but from a heavenly view. 1 Corinthians 1:20 KJV Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? Each of us can tell our own story about Jesus Christ. The listener chooses weather they believe or not. If the listener chooses not to believe, does that mean the story is not true? It is just as easy to believe a lie as it is to believe the truth. Most judge by whose telling it. My grandmother told me a lie needs clothes, but the truth can stand necked.

(Nickle, 2001, p. 37) States, “Once these oral traditions were committed to writing they became relatively stabilized.” The author states, “They were fixed or frozen in written form.” One of the definitions of the word gospel is: an idea or set of ideas that someone believes and often tries to make other people believe. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary) I choose to believe that the gospel is only complicated to the ones who choose not to believe. I don't know, and I was not there. However, I do have my own stories about Jesus and how he changed my life after reading about his life. Almost all the women in the New Testament I can identify with. And just like those women Jesus change my life also. Their stories gave me my story, and my story if it's chosen to be believed can change someone else life.

References

Nickle, k. F. (2001). *The Synoptic Gospels*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

