

Christian Identities and Jewish Identities Paper
Telling and Retelling: the Gospels. Due 11/26.

Texts: Matthew
Luke
Mark
John

Proto-Gospel of James
Gospel of Peter
Gospel of Thomas
Gospel of Mary

We will set paper workgroups in class on **Wednesday, 11/07.**

Part I. (In class on **Monday, 11/12**)

For this paper, I would like Person 1 to tell a story to the group about a crime in 600 words [IN THE FIRST PERSON, i.e., “Here is a crime that I committed...”] and imagine that s/he is telling the story to a best friend.

Part II. (All the retellings are due on Canvas by **Thursday, 11/15 by 11:59 pm.**)

Person 1 should post the original story after everyone has posted their retellings.

Person 2 should tell the same story (also of 600 words, 1pg) as if s/he were telling you’re a (any, even your own) mother.

Person 3 should tell the same story, but to a police officer.

Person 4 should tell to a 7-year old niece or nephew.

Person 5 should write to a priest or to any other figure of religious authority

Person 6 should tell the story to a reporter for TMZ.

Part III. (Due in class on **Monday, 11/26**)

Everyone must write a paper (3 pp, about 1000 words) that includes 1) an analysis of the retellings and 2) a comparison to the early Christian texts. It should provide a summary of the effect that changes in audience had on the shape of the telling of the crime story. Then, apply how these changes compare to the differences in the accounts of the life of Christ. You do not have to use all of the texts listed above, but be sure to have a range of texts including both canonical and non-canonical gospels.

Some questions to get you started: How does audience shape the retelling of the Christ story? What parts were emphasized or omitted and why? What is the purpose of these re-tellings?

Ultimately, paper should answer the following question:

How did the early Christian authors employ the Jewish texts and themes to retell the Christ story to their respective audiences?