THE HUMOR OF JESUS AND FIRST NATION CULTURE

Indigenous Studies Program (ISP) Summer School
Vancouver School of Theology
July 16-27, 2018
The Rev. Dr. Gary Kush, PhD
Prepared January 22, 2018 (subject to change)

INTRODUCTION
If you don’t think God has a sense of humor, take a good look at yourself the next time you get out of the shower. People more religious than God would disagree. The humor of Jesus is a legitimate topic for research, but it can be studied so seriously that the meaning is lost. A balance will be sought in this course.

Using a variety of disciplines, the following questions will be explored: 1. What is humor and its functions? 2. What forms of humor are popular among First Nation people? 3. What types of humor did Jesus use and for what reasons? 4. If God has a sense of humor and we are created in His image, how should we conduct our lives?

During the week, scholarly articles will be reviewed. Video clips of various types of humor will be studied. A variety of Gospel passages will be analyzed. And video clips of First Nation comedians will be compared with the articles and other video clips.

OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSE
By the end of the course, students will be able to select two Bible passages from a provided list and in a team of two, explain in writing or orally A. the circumstances of the passage, B. The types of humor used, C. How listeners reacted and why D. What is humorous about the passages and E. What God might be saying to me from the passage. This exercise will serve as a final examine.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT
For students to receive ConEd credit, they MUST write a short daily journal which describes the main points of daily material including reflections of relevance to their own life and ministry. Students have the choice of requesting an oral journal presentation. The requirements are the journal plus daily attendance.

TAKE HOME RESOURCES
In addition to daily handouts, a DVD including the resources used in the course will be created and sent to participants. The DVD will make it possible for students to teach their own mini course back home. Free access to the online version of this course will be arranged.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR
The Rev. Dr. Gary Kush, PhD, has been a Presbyterian pastor, Dean of Instruction at Cook College, and Theology School and recently Director of Webucators (developing online courses). The United Performing Artists of America recruited him to be a standup comic. During this time, he
developed an interest in the humor of Jesus. While directing the Theological Education by Extension program at Cook College in AZ, he laughed his way across parts of Canada visiting First Nation communities. Using his recent PhD, he has worked in India, Central and South America, Africa, and Asia to help colleges and mission agencies adapt to educational technology.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


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Heinen, T. "A Humorous View of Quirky Christian Culture." Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. 4.3.


Miles, John A. "Laughing at the Bible: Jonah as Parody." The Jewish Quarterly Review 65, no. 3 (1975): 168–8


Terri Bednarz. Fort Worth, TX, Brite Divinity School.


The End