

**Text:** Matthew 28:16-17

**Title:** Jesus Meets with the Disciples

**Truth:** Jesus Again Receives Worship

**Date/Location:** February 22, 2023 at FBC

## Introduction

So far on the first day of the week, we have seen an angel explain to the tomb-visitors that Jesus is alive, and then the Lord Himself met with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. The soldiers saw at least some of these events, if not all of them. It was apparently some days later when the verses 16-17 occurred.

### I. The Galilee Meeting with Jesus, v. 16

- A. Why Galilee? The prophet Isaiah wrote about a great light which would appear there (Isaiah 9:1-2). I believe that was fulfilled when Jesus moved there. Jesus was from that general region (Matt. 2:22-23, 21:11). That is where He came from to be baptized (Matt. 3:13). That was the headquarters of His ministry (Matt. 4:12-16, 23). Many of the 12 disciples were from there (Peter and Andrew, for instance, Matt. 4:18). Many of all His followers were from there (Mat. 4:25, Mark 3:7). Many people knew him there (Mark 1:28, 39). Many women who were followers of Jesus were from Galilee (Matt. 27:55). Also, the hate-filled Jewish leaders posed a logistical problem in Jerusalem to having such a meeting. Perhaps from a human standpoint it was better to get out of there.
- B. Instructions to go there. In Matthew 26:32, Jesus told the disciples that he would go there after His resurrection (Mark 14:28). Then, the angel told the women at the tomb to tell the disciples to meet Jesus at Galilee (28:7). Then Jesus Himself told the women to pass the same message to his friends (28:10). So, they went there. Jesus had given more details—not revealed in Matthew's gospel—about a particular mountain which Jesus had told them would be their meeting spot.
- C. Stop and think about this. Suppose that several times you have been told that Jesus is going to meet with you in Galilee. He did not say to keep the information private like He did other times in his

ministry (Mark 8:26). What do you think is going to happen? Everyone is going to tell everyone that Jesus has set up a meeting in his home region. And everyone is going to show up. Well, not *everyone*, but I think it is likely that when Paul said, “Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time” (1 Cor. 15:6) that this event could have occurred at the Galilee meeting location. The other meetings of the Lord that we know about were unscheduled, like on the road to Emmaus or to the 12 in the upper room that first Sunday evening. But this one would have become well-known.

By the way, if there were 500 brothers at that time, I imagine that there may have been hundreds of others who observed as well—just not “brothers.”

## II. The Mixed Response to Jesus, v. 17

A. They **worshipped**. Once again, we run into this critical teaching-by-example that the disciples *worshipped* Jesus. Neither they nor He had any problem with them doing this. If it were wrong, He would have told them. But He did not. Remember all the passages of Scripture that positively refer to worship of Jesus.

Matthew 2:2, 2:11, 8:2, 9:18, 14:33, 15:25, 21:9, 28:17; Mark 5:6;  
Luke 24:52; John 9:38, 12:13, 20:28; Hebrews 1:6, 1:8;

**Revelation 5:8-14.**

These 15+ texts demonstrate conclusively that Jesus was, is, and ought to be worshipped.

B. **Some doubted**. What is the meaning of this doubting: couldn't they see Jesus right in front of them? Didn't they “get” that He had promised to rise from the dead, and then in fact did so? We might think we would respond better than they did. But think carefully before you make that judgment.

They were not sure if what they were experiencing was real. Perhaps they were “seeing things” or they were seeing an apparition instead of a real person. Luke 24:36-43 expresses this. They were incredulous because it seemed too good to be true. Or they were still in shock, mixed with grief, and this clouded their thinking. Perhaps a combination of all these things caused doubt.

- C. The **implication of doubt as to the veracity of Scripture**. The Bible is as honest as the day is long.<sup>1</sup> It is completely trustworthy and utterly reliable. It tells things like they are, not some sugar-coated version of how they should be, or how the apostles wanted it to look, like an idealized version of reality that would encourage more people to believe. The Bible presents Abraham and Sarah's doubts and David's faults and Peter's failures.
- D. This doubt also tells us that the **apostles were not** merely emotional, **gullible** people. They used their heads. They were looking at the situation objectively and trying to figure out what was real and what was not. Remember, they had seen a lot of demonic activity in the last few years because the Devil threw a lot of stuff at Jesus, trying to get Him to falter. So, they had to be skeptical in some way.
- E. Another implication of doubt. **You do not get killed for doubting**. God leaves room for doubt for some part of your lifespan so that you have plenty of time to consider Him without arm-twisting or fear of physical harm. There is no reason to say that God hastily discarded you or pressured you into believing in Him.
- But He does teach us that now is the acceptable time—today is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2). He also teaches us that approaching God with doubt is not a good thing (Rom. 14:23, James 1:6).
- F. Finally, **one more implication**: the fact that some doubted may indicate that there were quite a few more people present than just the 11 disciples. The 11 went to meet Jesus, *they* saw Him, *they* worshipped. It may be by this point, several days later, that Thomas has gotten all his doubting done. So, *they* saw and worshipped, but *some (perhaps not the same as they)* doubted.

## Conclusion

The Lord kept His word—He arose from the dead and met with the disciples on a mountain Galilee. This was an awfully exciting time for the disciples and helped to propel them and the soon-to-be-

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.southernstandard.com/opinions/where-did-phrase-come-honest-day-long/>

born church into a world-wide evangelistic campaign to tell everyone that Jesus is not in the tomb but rather is risen from the dead as He said. He is coming back as King and Judge, and we must be rightly related to Him, else we will face His divine judgment.

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