

Mt. 28:16-17 **THE GALILEE MEETING**

**Introduction:**

This text says that the eleven apostles left Jerusalem and went into Galilee. It says that Jesus had instructed them to go there. In our previous text the Jewish leaders instructed the Roman soldiers who had guarded the tomb of Jesus to claim that the disciples of Jesus had come while they were asleep and had stolen the body of Jesus. That was obviously a lie. If they were asleep they could not know what had happened to the body. Even if it had been stolen, they could not know who it was who stole it.

In this text the disciples of Jesus went to Galilee to meet Jesus as Jesus had instructed them to do. There at Galilee a very important meeting took place.

**I. Some of the events that had taken place prior to the meeting**

- A. Matthew had already mentioned that certain women had seen Jesus after His resurrection. .
- B. There were several other appearances of Jesus to His disciples which took place at Jerusalem prior to the Galilean meeting and Matthew did not mention all of them. (I will mention a few.).
  - 1. Simon Peter saw Jesus at or near the tomb about the same time that the women had seen Him.
  - 2. Later that same day Jesus appeared in the midst of the church congregation with only Thomas and a few others who were absent. .
  - 3. About a week later Thomas was present when Jesus appeared to the group. .
  - 4. On the Emmaus road He appeared to two of His disciples who had not been present at any of the prior appearances.
- C. On several different occasions prior to His crucifixion He had instructed His disciples to meet Him in Galilee, Mt. 26:32; Mk. 14:28; Mk. 16:7; Mt. 28:10, 16.
- D. The instruction for them to go into Galilee was not intended for the eleven apostles alone, but for all of His disciples.
- E. Can you imagine what the women may have said when they reported to the main body of disciples that Jesus had risen.? (Perhaps it went something like this: “Now don't think we have lost our minds, but Jesus is alive. He is not dead any more. We have seen Him and He said for us to tell all of you to go to Galilee and meet Him there. Spread the word. Tell the others.”)
- F. The Apostle Peter came from the tomb and said essentially the same thing.
  - 1. Thomas, at first, had been telling an opposite story. (He said, “I don't believe it.)
  - 2. But after Thomas saw Jesus with his own eyes, he must have been just as anxious to spread the news as the others.
  - 3. His message was, “Go to Galilee and you can see Him for yourself that Jesus is alive.”.

**II. The gathering of the Lord's \disciples at Galilee**

- A. In verse 16 of our text Matthew speaks only about the 11 apostles going to Galilee.
- B. Yet in verse 17 he reveals that the eleven were not the only disciples at that meeting.
  - 1. The latter part of this verse says that even at that meeting there were still some who doubted that Jesus had risen from the grave.
  - 2. This surely means that prior to His appearance there at that meeting there were some

who still doubted that Jesus had arisen.

3. There had to be more than just the eleven apostles present at the meeting.
  - a. Thomas had been the only one of the eleven who had, for a while, doubted.
  - b. But by this time Thomas no longer doubted.
  - c. Whoever the doubters were, it was somebody in addition to the eleven.
  - d. So there were definitely more than the eleven present.

C. Note in verse 16 that Jesus had not only instructed them to go into Galilee, but He had instructed them to go to a certain mountain in Galilee and meet Him there.

D. None of the gospel writers make mention of anyone other than the eleven going to Galilee to meet Him..

1. It remains for the Apostle Paul to give us that information.
2. In I Cor. 15:3 the Apostle Paul said that there was one occasion in which Jesus was seen by more than 500 brethren at once.
3. Paul does not tell us where that occasion took place.
4. But it is highly unlikely that it took place in Jerusalem;
  - a. Two of His appearances at Jerusalem had taken place within one room.
  - b. It is almost certain that it was at the Galilean meeting that this took place
  - c. The summons to meet at Galilee was given to all of the Christian brethren and not to just a few..

E. What a joyous occasion it must have been

1. The news of the resurrection of Jesus was true.
2. They could all see Him with their own eyes.
3. His own physical body had been resurrected.
4. Those who had previously had doubts about His resurrection were now certain that He had arisen from the dead.
5. Likewise, any doubts which may have arisen about Him being the Son of God were gone.
6. The Apostle Paul said that all of them were eyewitnesses of His resurrection.
  - a. They had heard that Jesus had arisen from the dead.
  - b. Now they knew beyond any shadow of doubt that He had risen.
  - c. They could also testify beyond any shadow of doubt that He is the Savior of men.

### **III. Some of the summons which Jesus issues today**

A. Jesus summons all who are lost in sin and headed for the fires of hell to look unto Him and be saved, Isa 45:22; Rev. 22:17.

1. First, know that you are a guilty sinner and need to be saved.
2. Know that Jesus died on the cross to save lost sinners and that He arose from the grave.
3. Know that Jesus can and will save you and keep you out of hell if you repent of your sin and trust in Jesus to save you, Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:13; John 3:16.
4. Call upon Him today and trust Him to save you, II Cor. 6:2; James 4:14.

B. Jesus summons all people --- and especially all saved people --- to come and meet with Him at the house of God, Heb. 10:25.

C. Jesus summons all saved people to witness for Him to the unsaved.

D. At some appointed time in the future, Jesus will summons all unsaved people to stand before Him in judgment and hear Him as He sentences them to depart from Him into The Lake of Fire and Brimstone.

**Conclusion:**

If you are still unsaved Jesus is calling you right now to repent of your sin and put your faith in Him for salvation. You have the option of answering that call or refusing to answer the call and going on to hell.

If you are saved Jesus is calling for you to give your life in service to Him. You, too, have the option. You can answer that call and serve the Lord or you can refuse to come and neglect to Him who gave His life for you.

When the Lord calls for you to leave your earthly body and go out into eternity to meet Him you will have no option. You will answer that call.

