
SERIES TITLE - Dave Solmes

Jesus Has Gone Before You | Matthew 28:16-20 | April 4, 2021

Introduction:

Question: How often do you think about your future?

Question: What questions are on people's minds when they think about the future?

Question: Is it hard to imagine a God who cares about your future?

Question: Why would Jesus chose Galilee as a rendezvous point, 125 km from Jerusalem?.

Answer: The New Testament narrative began in Galilee. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Galilee. The disciples met Jesus in Galilee. These disciples were fishermen on the sea of Galilee. Jesus 3 years of Public ministry primarily happened in Galilee. Jesus' ministry didn't begin in Jerusalem. Jesus' ministry began in Galilee. Perhaps the instruction - 'Go to Galilee' means creating a beginning with Jesus or rediscovering our beginnings with Jesus. 'Going to Galilee', to meet Jesus perhaps was all about putting the most essential question in front of them for their consideration: "Lots going on out there, but what about what is going on in here?" 'Going to Galilee' is not about going back in time; it is not about being nostalgic. Reliving the good ole days. It is about declaring a first love or perhaps – returning to a first love. After His death Jesus didn't lead them to a synagogue. He invited them to Galilee, far away from anything that represented religion in order to discover and examine relationship.

Read: Matthew 28: 17

3 Things the Disciples Found in Galilee:**#1. The Person - Jesus**

They saw Jesus, and some worshipped &&& some doubted. Notice, it doesn't say they left – they just doubted. This is absolutely what an authentic relationship with God entails. They had come from Jerusalem, the big city with the big temples that taught the law. The law never made room for true worship and doubt because religion is something you do, and you are judged accordingly. The law is about behaviour and not belief. Jesus is someone you believe, therefore there will always be the interplay of worship and doubt in a relationship with God. Our challenge is to be authentic and admit it. What we see here is that Jesus will never push aside

our worship, NOR will Jesus ever push aside someone who carries doubt in their heart and mind.

Note: *The best place to sort out our faith is within relationship, not by walking away from the Jesus, the One we have questions about.*

Read: Matthew 28:18

Question: What did the Disciples hear from Jesus?

Note: That day the disciples heard Jesus announce his supreme authority over Heaven and Earth.

To the worshipping disciples it would have given them great enthusiasm – more reason to worship. To the doubting disciples it would have been a message: “ask me anything”. It is essential that we appreciate that our questions, doubts, and concern is from the only vantage point we have, which is absolutely HUMAN. This doesn’t threaten or concern God.

Read: Isaiah 55:8-10

Question: Is this contradictory? God says get to know me, but yet says my ways are not your ways. **Question:** Is worship and doubt ok in our relationship with God? Why or why not?\

#2. The Disciples Found a Renewed Purpose

In this passage The Apostles were confirmed as teachers of Jesus’ Gospel ...

Read: Matthew 28:19-20

Question: Who does this passage say about being qualified to be a teacher and teller about Jesus?

Question: The disciples found a renewed sense of usefulness. Do you ever feel that you are not being useful?

#3. The Disciples received a Promise

Read: Matthew 28:20

Question: What positive things happen when we realize God is with us and has gone before us?

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Closing: Name a time in your life when it was obvious that God was way ahead of you in your story?