



When did Jesus return to Galilee?

Skeptics and critics have sometimes claimed that the gospels have a contradiction about when Jesus' disciples returned to Galilee. Alleged contradiction: *When did the disciples return to Galilee? (a) Immediately, because when they saw Jesus in Galilee "some doubted" (Matthew 28:17). This period of uncertainty should not persist (b) After at least 40 days. That evening the disciples were still in Jerusalem (Luke 24:33). Jesus appeared to them there and told them, stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). He was appearing to them "during forty days" (Acts 1:3), and "charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise ... "(Acts 1:4)* When we actually analyze the gospels and Acts, we find that the alleged "contradiction" clears up. **"The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them." (Matthew 28:16 CSB).** The report does not say the eleven faithful apostles went all the way to Galilee that same day. In fact, **"that same day",** Jesus' apostles were still in Jerusalem (**Luke 24:13,33 NIV**). There was no rush to get to Galilee, which was about 60 miles away, and would take about 2 to 3 days travel time. Jesus **"appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3 NIV).** There are eleven recorded appearances in gospels of Jesus appearing to his disciples during this time **"period of forty days"**. Likely there were also other appearances that Jesus made to his disciples during this time period **"which are not recorded" (John 20:30; 21:25).** Jesus' telling them, **"I am sending on you the gift promised by my Father; wait here in this city until you are armed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49 REB),** did not occur until near the end of

this forty day period of time. It was, **“While he was in their company, he directed them not to leave Jerusalem. ‘You must wait,’ he said, ‘for the gift promised by the Father’” (Acts 1:4 REB).** Thus, there is no contradiction about when Jesus' disciples returned to Galilee.