



Ask, Father James:

When they saw him, they worshiped him (Matthew 28:17)

Matthew 28:17 is a text that speaks to ecclesiological Christology. What this means is, why the church worships Jesus Christ. The v. 17 says: “When they saw him, they worshipped him...” This is the height of acknowledgment that Jesus Christ is Lord – He is One with divine authority. Christ has always been king and worthy of honor but many didn’t know nor acknowledged this. Recall the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), when he was worshipped. Before, then, John the Baptist worshipped him in the womb (Luke 1:44). Later, the disciples would worship him in the boat and say – “Truly, you are the Son of God” (Matthew 14:33). In today’s text, Jesus confirms that he is Lord. He says, “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...” How? Ever since that voice came down from heaven at his own baptism, he was given this authority.

Ascension was the day Jesus made his mission a universal mission and commanded (the church) to obey his last command to go to the whole world and use Jesus’ authority to – preach, teach, and baptize in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He then assures us of his everlasting presence – I will be with you until the end of the age. This was why In Matthew 1:23, He is called “Immanuel,” meaning “God with us.”

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