

The Resurrection

In the book of John, chapter 20 we have the historical account of Jesus after the resurrection, but before He ascended into heaven.

Mary found the tomb empty and the stone rolled away and ran to tell Peter and John that someone had taken the body of Jesus.

Mary saw the grave cloth, saw the handkerchief that had been around the head of Jesus was folded neatly by itself but knew not what had happened. She then went to find Peter and John to tell them what she saw.

After Peter and John left, Mary was alone outside the tomb weeping when suddenly Jesus appeared to her and asked “woman, why are you weeping?:

Mary had no idea at that time that this was Jesus talking to her, so she excused her activity with the excuse that “someone has taken Him away”

Mary did not recognize Jesus until He spoke to her by saying her name.

Mary – Jesus said, and immediately she recognized Him.

What happened next is very important...

Mary did what most all of us would do, she immediately went to Hug Him

The response from Jesus was unusual at first glance.

Jesus told Mary, “Do not cling to Me, FOR I HAVE NOT YET ASCENDED TO MY FATHER”

Wow, what on earth did this mean? Why would He refuse to allow her to touch Him? Especially according to John 20 vs 19 when all of His disciples were together and encouraged them to “touch His hands and feet” to feel their piercing.

Why was Mary told not to touch Him, when later that same day He met the two folks on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13:35) and after their long walk told them to “Handle Me”

Interesting here beloved the physical condition Jesus was in. This was a 7 mile walk He encountered while talking to these two folks. Luke tells us that Jesus was prepared to walk even further, but these two people constrained Him. Verse 28 said “He (Jesus) would have walked further.”

So they sat down to eat and then Jesus revealed Himself to them and after that He vanished.

Jesus told them “behold My hands and My feet – HANDLE Me

Also, after telling Mary not to touch Him in Matthew 28:9-10 Jesus appeared to His disciples and said “REJOICE” and immediately they came and “Held Him”

SO WHY TELL MARY TO TOUCH ME NOT, AND TELL THESE FOLKS – HANDLE ME AND SEE WHO I AM?

The answer beloved is marvelous to behold.

With the swiftness of Light, Jesus ascended to His Father in heaven and returned to earth.

In the Old Testament on the “day of atonement” the High Priest offered on the Altar the “blood of atonement”

If anyone had touched the High Priest before He could carry the blood into the “Most Holy Place” to make the atonement, the blood was of NO AVAIL.

Got the picture?

Had Mary touched Jesus (our High Priest) before He could carry His blood into the Most Holy Place (in heaven) the blood would have been tarnished and of “no avail” spoiled or of no value.

So he refrained her from touching Him until He had presented His Blood making the final atonement for sin, before His heavenly Father.

Hebrews 9:12 says “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.’

You got to love this guy huh?

TomMorrisonGodcast.com