

John 20:17 "Jesus said to her (Mary), 'Do not cling to Me for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and to your God.'"

In verse 16 Mary, I believe, was attempting to verify the resurrection. So why was it important that she was instructed the way she was in verse 17?

Consider this, shortly after, when the Disciples were gathered to re-group, the resurrected Christ appears to them. However, Thomas is missing from the group (Verse 19 & 20).

Eight days later Jesus majestically appears. When the Disciples report to Thomas that they saw Jesus alive, he responded with skepticism (Verse 24). Jesus challenges him to place his hands in the wounds that remained in His body (verse 26 & 27). Now the obvious question here is, why did Jesus deny Mary and then instruct Thomas to observe the evidence by asking him to touch the wounds?

Consider this, as the Messiah, Jesus was soon going to minister in the high Tabernacle (Hebrews 9:11). While the term "Defilement" was not considered a sin, it was seen as a disqualifier for a High Priest in the Jewish culture to enter into the presence of God for a period of time after being exposed to any form of death (Leviticus 21:1).

Most likely, that specific instruction to Mary was because she had stepped into the tomb shortly prior to meeting the resurrected Jesus (Verse 11). Therefore, the refusal to be touched probably had to do with the High Priestly purity that Jesus was determined to uphold.

So, my conclusion as to why Mary was instructed not to touch the resurrected Jesus' body was because her Rabbi and Lord had duties to fulfill shortly after He made this very firm request in John 20:17.

Now, what's our take away in our modern world from this early observation? Think about it. We can observe timeless values, authenticity and compatibility, between the old and New Testament Scriptures by observing the truths and faith placed on them by the incarnated Christ, named Jesus (Yahweh).

Remember, "*following Christ*" is a personal "*Relationship.*" It's not just a religion. All religions result from humanity's following beliefs. Following Christ as our *Lord and Savior* is the result of experiencing God's "*grace*" by faith as He pursues us!!!

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