

#25 EMAIL RESPONSE ON WHY MARY SHOULD NOT TOUCH JESUS

Dear Joe,

I have a doubt, when Jesus resurrected from death two things happened

1. Jesus said to Mary Magdalene not to touch him (John 20:17), as he is not yet Ascended to the father. Why did he say that?

2. In John 20, Jesus said to the disciples he breathed on them and said, receive the holy spirit. How can we see this?

Can you explain these two?

A

Dear A _____,

Here is your first question:

1. Jesus said to Mary Magdalene not to touch him, as he is not yet Ascended to the father. Why did he say that?

A better first question is "why did Jesus appear to a woman first (Mary) and not to the male disciples?"

This concept applies to the answer: MAN (MIND) + WOMAN (SPIRIT) = ONE FLESH

I believe Jesus appeared to Mary first to show (in type) that a person's belief in Him and His resurrection originates in the spirit & heart (woman) when they are given the Early Rain of the Spirit. The person's spirit will then feed the mind. Because this is Christ's spiritual message that He wanted to present in verse 16, Jesus revealed Himself to Mary first as shown below:

John 20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

Mary's belief is also confirmed by the phrase "she turned". In Christ's spiritual language "to be turned" represents that a person is now seeing (understanding) something in a different way. This happens when the Holy Spirit gives the person their spiritual discernment to understand the truth. This concept is also shown in the verse below:

Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I SAW seven golden candlesticks;

After Mary (representing the person's spirit & heart) believed, Christ said this to her:

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

The main message of verse 17 occurs when Christ tells Mary to go and tell "my brethren" (John 20:18) that He is resurrected. It is this basic truth of Christ and His resurrection that the Early Rain of the Spirit gives a person (1Cor 2:2, Christ and Him crucified).

Now to answer your question on why Mary was told not to touch Jesus. In this portion of verse 17, Christ is using the marriage analogy.

In the marriage analogy, "touching" can imply intimacy as between a husband and wife.

In Mary's case, she was only betrothed to Christ since she had only been given the Early Rain. She was not yet converted, and because of such, she was not in a husband and wife relationship with Christ. For this reason, Jesus told Mary not to touch Him because He had not yet ascended to the Father.

When Jesus appeared to Thomas after "eight" days, it represents when a person receives the Latter Rain and is converted. That is when Jesus will spiritually appear from heaven (ascended). The number "eight" represents a "new spiritual condition". It is at this time that a person can "touch" Jesus because they are now in a marriage relationship with Him.

Since Mary remained unconverted (only betrothed), she needed to wait until the marriage (conversion) takes place before touching Him. At the time of the marriage, Christ will ascend from heaven and gather His bride and take her back for the marriage ceremony. After the marriage, Mary would then be allowed to touch Jesus because she has now become the Bride of Christ.

If you need to know more about the marriage analogy, please read my paper L. The Parable of the Ten Virgins.

Here's your next question:

2. In John 20, Jesus said to the disciples and breathed on them and said, receive the holy spirit. How can we see this?

Here is the full scripture:

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit:

When Jesus gave the apostles the Holy Spirit in the verse above, it was a physical type which represented Him giving them the Latter Rain (the baptism) and converting them. It is after a person's conversion that Christ will send them out into the world as His witness.

Consider this: When did the Apostles go out into the world to be Christ's witnesses? It was after they received the Latter Rain on the Day of Pentecost. In verse 22, when Jesus breathed the

Holy Spirit onto them, they did not go out into the world. They remained in Jerusalem and waited for His return in the upper room with the other 109 Jewish elect (Acts 1:12-15).

One thing to keep in mind: Jesus frequently teaches spiritual truths by His physical actions and words associated with those actions. This way of teaching is called "types". There are many, many types presented in the four gospels. John 20:17 & 22 are some of those types.

YBIC,

Joe

Dear A _____,

One other point I want to make that may help you.

The Apostles who were breathed upon in verse 22 are representative of the Jewish elect who were witnesses of His crucifixion and resurrection. Thomas is a type for the Gentile elect who did not witness those events. With that in mind, read Thomas' account again with my underlined portions and comments:

John 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came (applies to Gentiles) 25 The other disciples (Jewish Elect**) therefore said unto him, we have seen the Lord (witnesses through scripture). But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them (represents the Gentile Elect): then Jesus came (**second coming to Thomas for conversion**), the doors being shut (**marriage and marriage supper occurs**), and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you (entered into the rest of Christ). 27 Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God (Thomas' confession unto salvation as Peter said in Acts 2:21). 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed (the Gentile Elect).**

YBIC,

Joe