

Touch Me Not

The goal of this study is to address the question of whether Mary Magdalene or anyone else had touched Yahshua after His resurrection that would have in effect made Him unclean, defiled by mankind, prior to Him ascending into heaven to present Himself at Yah's throne as the Wave Sheaf Offering. Some infer that He was held by Mary, defiling Himself...thus forfeiting His position. This study will scripturally clarify this question.

John 20:1~10 **The first day of the week** cometh Mary Magdalene **early, when it was yet dark**, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. **Then she runneth**, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, **They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.** Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. **Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.**

Note the time of the day, early in the morning, before light, when it was dark. When coming to the tomb and not finding Yahshua, Mary runs to the disciples and says, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him." She did not say I saw and talked to Him, or touched Him and I know that He lives, but reported that He's not there and we, meaning she was not alone, but the other Mary and others didn't know where He was. This is the first report to the disciples. Then later the disciples all run to the tomb, and seeing it empty return to their own homes.

John 20:11~18 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, **Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.** And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 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. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that **she had seen the Lord**, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

Notice Mary does not return to her own home as did the others, but stays at the tomb and weeps. Upon seeing Christ appears. She is told by Him "touch me not," for He had not yet ascended to the Father, Yah. He is in a pure state and does not want to be defiled.

He then instructs Mary to go to the brethren and say His words to them, "I am ascending to present myself before My Father and Your Father, My God and your God, in heaven where Yah sits." Yahshua thus became a pure offering before Yah, as the Wave Sheaf Offering, the first of the first fruits, before the harvest begins.

Note that Mary at this second time going into the disciples, reports that she has seen and has spoken to Him. Two different times she and the other Mary are seen going to report their finding to the others.

John 20:19~25 Then **the same day at evening, being the first day of the week**, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, (*the leader who are attempting to squelch this new way*), came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, **he shewed unto them his hands and his side**. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. 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.

Mark 16:1~8 And **when the Sabbath was past**, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And **very early in the morning the first day of the week**, they came unto the sepulchre **at the rising of the sun**. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: **he is risen; he is not here**: behold the place where they laid him. **But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you**. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: **neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid**.

Note the time this occurs is early in the morning, after the Sabbath, the first day of the new week. They meet a young man in the tomb who says that Christ has risen and is not here. This also shows that this young man is not Christ, for he would be lying, and thus is most likely an angel as stated in the other accounts. This is the first time a message is sent to the disciples that Yahshua lives, but as yet hadn't been seen by anyone. The message given told Mary to "tell his disciples and Peter that he (Yahshua) goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."

Note also that the women upon returning to the tomb did not speak to any man on the way due to fear. According to the Book of John, the disciples and Mary's later returning to the tomb confirm that Yahshua was not there.

Mark 16: 9~13 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, **he appeared FIRST to Mary Magdalene**, out of whom he had cast seven devils. And she went and told **them** (*the disciples*) that had been with him, as **they** (*the disciples*) mourned and wept. And **they** (*the disciples*), when they had heard that he was alive, and had been **seen of her**, believed not. After that he appeared **in another form** unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And **they** (*the two He appeared to on the country road*) went and told it unto the residue (*the disciples*): neither believed they them.

Once again it's stated that Yahshua rises early on the first day of a new week, a new beginning, a new start. Note that it's stated that He appeared to Mary Magdalene FIRST. Now she goes again the second time and reports to the disciples the second time that she has seen Him.

Yahshua additionally reveals Himself to two others on the road to the country who also go and report to the disciples that Christ lives for they had seen and talked to Him. This report of seeing and talking to Yahshua comes after the FIRST appearance revealed to Mary Magdalene. At that time she was told by Yahshua, "Do not touch for I ascend to the Father" etc. Perchance between the time of Mary's First appearance and the other sightings, Yahshua had ascended as that pure offering and then had returned to reveal Himself as the First Fruit as required upon Him being the Wave Sheaf Offering.

Mark 16:14 **Afterward he appeared unto the eleven** as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Luke 24:1~12 Now upon the **first day of the week, very early in the morning**, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in **shining garments**: And as they were **afraid**, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? **He is not here**, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, **And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.** It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women (*Salome*) that were with them, **which told these things unto the apostles.** And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, **and departed**, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

This is the first report by Mary and the other Mary to the disciples that the two men (angels) told them that Yahshua is not there, that He has risen. With this first report by Mary, Peter and the others go and confirm that He is not there. Upon seeing the empty tomb, the disciples depart.

Luke 24:13~24 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, **Jesus himself drew near**, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are **sad**? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there **in these days**? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how **the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death**, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. **Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.**

*Please let us stop and review what these two men are reporting regarding Yahshua as to what **had** already taken place. These men are two of the disciples who ran to the tomb to confirm the first report from Mary that He was not there. They are the same two men in Mark 16:12 who report that certain women including Mary had **first** reported to them that the tomb was empty and that an angel had told them that He had risen. Mary and the other women come and report the **first** time to the disciples, including these two disciples, of their findings: that He's not there, that **they have not seen Him**, that He's missing all confirmed by an angel telling them that He had risen. These two men with others go to the tomb to confirm the report, by seeing that He is not there. As stated in Luke 24:12, they depart, traveling into the country side.*

Luke 24:25~35 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake,

and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to **Jerusalem**, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

They also go back and report to the disciples the second time that Yahshua lives.

Luke 24:36~49 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: **handle me, and see**; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them. And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled**, which were written in the **law of Moses**, and in the **prophets**, and in the **psalms**, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Here at this point, Yahshua is telling them to handle Him and see for themselves that He is flesh. After ascending to the Father as a pure offering, He appears to the disciples as the acceptable First Fruit of Yah.

Summary:

*We have three accounts of Mary and other women as they return from the tomb early on the first day of the week reporting to the disciples back in the city that **they have not seen Him**. But an angel tells them to go and tell the others that He has risen. The disciples come to the tomb to confirm the report, and all depart without seeing Him. At that time two of the disciples go on the road to the country where they meet Yahshua. Yahshua is revealed to Mary **FIRST** who stays at the tomb after the others have left. At that time Yahshua instructs Mary **“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.”** Here Yahshua says to Mary, *I haven’t yet ascended, so do not touch me, for I’m going to ascend. Go tell the others of this event. The event to be reported the second time to the disciples is, **“I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God”** confirming that He is alive and that **He is ascending to the Father.****

The verses pertaining to this topic found in the Books of Mark and Luke, will hopefully remove some of the confusion that is generated in the Book of Matthew. No scripture should be taken as a standalone witness. The time sequence in the Book of Matthew is confusing. A principle of allowing the many verses to clarify the few should be used in this instance. With the foundation of the Books of Mark and Luke, let us complete this study with the account in the Book of Matthew, Chapter 28.

Matthew 28:1~8 In the **end of the sabbath**, as it **began to dawn** toward the **first day of the week**, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the **angel** of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him **the keepers** did shake, and became as dead men. And the **angel** answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know

that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. **He is not here:** for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And **go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead;** and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And **they departed quickly** from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; **and did run to bring his disciples word.**

*Again note the timing when Mary and the other Mary go to the tomb is early in the morning, after the Sabbath, on the first day of the **new week**. They receive a declaration from the angel stating that **He is not here**, but has risen. The angel tells them to go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead and goes before them into Galilee, and that the disciples will see Him there.*

This agrees with the three other first message accounts sent to the disciples by the women, that He lives, but had not yet been seen by anyone. Note the women return with this message.

Matthew 28:9~10 And as **they** went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met **them**, saying, All hail. And **they** came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

*Here lies the question? When reading in time sequence we get the feeling that after the message from the angel **they** return declaring to the disciples that He has risen. On the way **they** meet, (see) Yahshua, and prostrate themselves holding Him by His feet. Yahshua repeats the message from the angel to go and tell the disciples that they will see Him in Galilee.*

*Twice it has been stated that it was Mary Magdalene and Mary only who saw Him **FIRST** as stated in John 20:17~18 and Mark 16:9. This account in contrast sounds more like the happening **after** He appeared to Mary **FIRST**, **after** having ascended to the Father with the **second message**, "I've seen Him and He does live." This event describes Mary at the tomb, **after** returning there again with the disciples, **after** being there with the other women early on the first day of the week. They then return to the city with the **first message** from the angel: He has Risen.*

Matthew 28:11~15 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Matthew 28:16~20 **Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him:** but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and His Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

*Man is always inclined to be intolerant toward the thing,
Or person, he hasn't taken adequate time to understand.*

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