

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for November 16, 2008

The One Who Conquered Death
John 20:11-17
Dale Whitehead

Christ's mastery over death in John 19:30 to John 20:31 was manifested in three different ways.

Christ's mastery over death was manifested in His dying (John 19:30-37).

Christ's mastery over death was manifested in His burial (John 19:38-42).

Christ's mastery over death was manifested in His resurrection (John 20:1-31).

The apostle John, in John 20:1-31, presented two different exhibits to support the fact of the resurrection.

The first exhibit that John presented to his readers to support the resurrection was the empty tomb (John 20:1-10).

The presence and the positioning of the grave clothes in the empty tomb were far more consistent with a resurrection than a body snatching.

The second exhibit that John presented to His readers to support the resurrection were eyewitness accounts (John 20:11-31).

The first eyewitness account that the apostle John recorded for us was that of Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18).

The Greek word for "weeping" (KLAIO) means "constant, unrestrained, sobbing."

Mary has so completely given her heart to one thought and to the deep grief it brought, that all other impressions failed to register in her mind.

Mary Magdalene's desire to honor and magnify Christ, even when she believed He was dead, placed her in a position to receive blessing.

When Christ spoke Mary's name He used the Aramaic form Miriam, which would have been used by her parents and friends to address her.

The word cling (HAPTOMAI) means to attach oneself.

Christ, in response to her embrace, kindly but firmly asked her to stop.

Mary Magdalene wanted to keep Christ with her and preserve the moment that she was now enjoying, but it was not appropriate in light of His approaching ascension.

What would have been more appropriate for Mary, rather than clinging to Christ, was going to tell His disciples that He was going to ascend to His Father.

May God give us the grace to understand, based on the promise of Christ and His complete mastery over death, that even if we die, we will live again.