

Part 3, Paper 100, Religion in... Human Experience, Melchizedek

📅 Thu, Oct 03, 2024 11:15AM 🕒 12:43

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

religious growth, spiritual living, personal journey, inner journey, prejudice ignorance, cultural context, genuine loyalty, spiritual progress, unshakable peace, supreme values, true happiness, spiritual connection, genuine love, personal philosophy, ongoing growth

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

S Sarah 00:00

Welcome to your deep dive. Today, we're going to be tackling a fascinating subject, the nature of religious growth and spiritual living. Yes, we're going deep into excerpts from the Urantia Book, and hopefully we'll uncover some profound insights together. What do you think? I'm

J John 00:16

excited this text is just like full of thought provoking ideas. It

S Sarah 00:20

really is. And you know me, I love a good deep dive. So I have to say, right off the bat, it really struck me how this text emphasizes the personal experience of religious growth, right? It's not about inheriting beliefs or, you know, checking boxes. It's about like a much more personal journey. Yeah,

J John 00:37

it's an inner journey. Yeah. Would you say that? It reminded me, it was reading something years ago, and it was saying that, you know, you can't just get religion from somebody else, like it's a tangible thing, right? You have to discover it for yourself.

S Sarah 00:50

That's such a great way to put it. I love that it's about discovering what truly resonates with you

on a personal level, not just what you've been told or what you've inherited, but like with any journey, there are some obstacles along the way. Yeah, and the text calls out two big ones, prejudice and ignorance. Those are big ones for sure. You really are and I think it's so easy to fall into those traps. Oh, absolutely. I

J John 01:13

mean, think about a time when you encountered a belief system that initially seemed really strange or even off putting right. But then maybe, as you learned more about it, as you understood the why behind it, maybe your perspective shifted a bit.

S Sarah 01:28

Oh, that's such a good point. It reminds me of how quick we can be to judge unfamiliar customs or traditions, like we see someone doing something that seems odd to us, right? But maybe we just don't understand the cultural or historical context behind it

J John 01:41

precisely. It's like we're seeing a single frame of a movie, yes? And we're trying to understand the entire plot. We need that full picture, right? The full context? Yes. And speaking of pictures, I love how this text. It paints this beautiful picture about how children develop their own sense of right and wrong. Oh,

S Sarah 01:59

yeah, tell me more about that. That part really stood out. It basically suggests that witnessing

J John 02:03

genuine loyalty in adults, like seeing it lived out, leaves a much deeper impression on children than you know, simply being told what to believe, right?

S Sarah 02:13

Like just being given a list of rules to follow exactly.

J John 02:17

It's not about preaching, it's about embodying what we believe in actions speak louder than words, right?

S

Sarah 02:22

Absolutely, it's not about preaching, it's about living it. Show, don't tell. I love that. But you know, it's interesting, because we often associate spirituality with just feeling good, or, you know, finding inner peace, right? But this text seems to suggest that there's more to it than that. Would you agree,

J

John 02:40

you're picking up on something really crucial there this text, it kind of pushes back against the idea of spiritual growth as simply seeking, like blissful ignorance, right? It's about something deeper, something more active.

S

Sarah 02:54

I like that. Yeah. So if it's not just about like seeking constant bliss, what is the connection between spiritual growth and, you know, true happiness. That's something that I was really thinking about when I was reading this text. This part really resonated with me, because I think it challenges, like, a common assumption we have about spirituality,

J

John 03:11

yeah, it does, doesn't it? Yeah, yeah. It's not about just avoiding life's challenges or pretending like everything's always perfect, right? True happiness, according to this text, is like it's deeply interwoven with our own spiritual progress. It's about developing this like unshakable inner peace that allows us to navigate those ups and downs with like Grace and resilience. I

S

Sarah 03:34

love that you mentioned like unshakable inner peace because it made me wonder, you know, is that even possible in a world that often feels, you know, chaotic and unpredictable and just constantly changing. It's a great question,

J

John 03:46

right? And I think the text gives us some clues, right? You remember how we were talking about those, like supreme values earlier, right? Aligning our life with what truly matters Exactly? So the text seems to suggest that, like finding that unshakable peace comes from this deep seated knowing that you are living in accordance with those values, you know, regardless of what's happening externally. That

S

Sarah 04:07

makes me think about. you know. when the text talks about the difference between. like. what

is value and what has value? Oh yes, and I'll be honest, like, I've used those terms interchangeably in the past, but they're not the same thing. Are they

J John 04:19

not at all? And that distinction is so important, right? The text argues that, like, purely selfish enjoyment, without considering, like, the bigger picture, right, or how our actions might be affecting others, can actually, like, diminish the meaning in our experiences. Yeah,

S Sarah 04:35

it's like we're constantly chasing after something, a feeling that's fleeting, yeah, rather than, like, building something more substantial and lasting, that is a fantastic way to put it. It just made me think about that passage in the text about the caveman and the saber tooth tiger.

J John 04:51

Oh, yes.

S Sarah 04:53

Do you mind, like refreshing my memory a bit on that passage? Of

J John 04:56

course, not. So picture this. You've got this caveman. That, right? He's standing there club raised this look of like pure anger on his face. And our initial reaction, you know, as a modern reader, we might feel fear, we might even feel judgment towards this, like seemingly aggressive caveman, right, right? But then we zoom out, right, and we see that there's this, like a saber tooth tiger lurking nearby, threatening his family, and suddenly his motivation becomes crystal clear, right?

S Sarah 05:24

He's not just some like, angry caveman. He's protecting his family, exactly.

J John 05:28

And our judgment shifts, you know, we go from fear or judgment to this sense of, like, wow, admiration for his courage, his, you know, instinct to protect the ones that he loves. It's such

—

S

Sarah 05:40

a powerful illustration of how our perspective changes when we understand the why behind someone's actions. You know, we might initially judge the caveman as being overly aggressive, but when we see the full context, when we see that saber toothed Tiger the need to protect his family, right, our understanding shifts dramatically. It's

J

John 06:00

huge, and that shift in understanding is key. I think it highlights just how much we miss when we only see the surface of things right, right? We're so quick to judge actions without really understanding the values, the motivations, the why, the why, exactly that are driving them.

S

Sarah 06:15

Reminds me of that quote, I think it's often attributed to Maya Angelou, where she says, people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. That's good. Yeah, and understanding the why behind someone's actions can just make all the difference in how we interact with them and how we respond to them. 100% it

J

John 06:35

allows us to respond with empathy, with compassion, rather than with that knee jerk, judgment or fear. And you know, this ties directly into a really, I think, important point about growth, that this text makes growth can be uncomfortable. It often arises from a place of discomfort.

S

Sarah 06:53

Oh, I like that. It's like that saying, you know, growth begins at the end of your comfort zone, exactly.

J

John 06:57

And this text addresses that head on, it says that, you know, spiritual growth often emerges from those moments of conflict, those times when we're being challenged to replace, you know, old habits, old thought patterns, with ones that are more aligned with the, you know, those higher values that we're striving for.

S

Sarah 07:14

Yeah, no, I think that really resonates. And I'm curious like, Have you ever experienced that kind of internal conflict where you're wrestling with new information or a new perspective, like, how do you approach those moments? It can be incredibly unsettling, oh yeah, to grapple with those things

J John 07:31

absolutely and it's like we're being pushed, you know, sometimes kicking and screaming, to expand our understanding of ourselves and the world around us. But you know, that's so incredible, is that, like, if we can approach those conflicts with an open mind, with this willingness to learn and to grow, to understand the why behind our own discomfort and the motivations of others, it's like we open ourselves up to this incredible transformation. It's like

S Sarah 07:55

that caveman example, again, you know, if we can understand our fellow humans better see the world through their eyes, you know, we're more likely to respond with compassion instead of judgment,

J John 08:04

exactly, and that's where love comes in. Remember how we were talking about how actions speak louder than words, the text so beautifully illustrates how love, genuine, heartfelt love, is perhaps the most powerful action of all. Wow. And you know, it's more contagious than hate. It has this incredible power to create this ripple effect, to inspire change, not just in ourselves, but in the world around us. That

S Sarah 08:27

makes me think about how in a world that you know often feels saturated with so much negativity, it can be really easy to feel lost in a sea of information, like we're bombarded with countless ideologies and belief systems, and it's like almost information overload, right? How do we even begin to navigate that and find what truly resonates with us as individuals? That's

J John 08:48

such a relevant question, right? Especially today, with so many voices vying for our attention, right? And the text actually addresses that directly, okay, it emphasizes that true religious experience isn't about blindly following some, like, set of rules. It's about developing our own personal philosophy of living right something that's authentic and meaningful to us. It's about that ongoing commitment to growth, to aligning ourselves with those higher values that we've been discussing.

S Sarah 09:15

So it's less about dogma and more about, like, personal exploration,



J John 09:19

precisely. Yeah, it's about that active engagement with our beliefs, constantly questioning and refining our understanding. And for some, that process, you know, can involve profound, even mystical experiences, right, like

S Sarah 09:35

the apostle Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Yes, the text definitely highlights that as like, a really powerful example of transformation.

J John 09:43

It does Yeah, but it also acknowledges that for many Yeah, conversion is a more gradual evolution, okay, a slow and steady awakening to a deeper truth, right? It's not always that, like singular earth shattering event. It's more about that ongoing commitment to. Growth to aligning ourselves with those higher values. So

S Sarah 10:02

it's about the journey, not just the destination, exactly.

J John 10:05

And you know, while those mystical experiences can be very powerful, the text also offers this word of caution. It warns against, like, actively seeking them out, suggesting that true spiritual connection isn't found in these, you know, fleeting moments of ecstasy or

S Sarah 10:20

vision. This is interesting. Why do you think that is well, the

J John 10:24

text suggests that it's easy to misinterpret, you know, subconscious thoughts or desires as Divine Messages, right? It emphasizes that true connection, the kind that leads to lasting fulfillment, comes from much deeper place, okay? It comes from sincere faith, from reflective worship, from genuine, heartfelt prayer practices that help us to cultivate that inner stillness and clarity, to connect with something greater than ourselves. It's about

S Sarah 10:49

living those values, not just talking about them or chasing after mystical experience exactly



John 10:53

and speaking of living those values. The Text points to Jesus as like the ultimate example of someone who embodied this idea of spiritual wholeness, wouldn't you say



Sarah 11:04

absolutely, he's often portrayed as like, the epitome of compassion and love.



John 11:08

And the text highlights how His personality was like, perfectly unified. It describes him as someone who embodied both like this immense strength and this profound compassion. This powerful reminder that true strength and true compassion aren't mutually exclusive, right? They can and should coexist within us.



Sarah 11:27

It's that beautiful balance, isn't it? And I love how the text actually gives us like these practical qualities that we can reflect on in our own lives, things we can strive to cultivate within ourselves, qualities like genuineness, balance, kindness, courage, generosity,



John 11:43

those really resonated with me too. Imagine the ripple effect if we, all you know, just focused on embodying those qualities a bit more in our daily lives, if we responded to challenges with courage and compassion, if our interactions were infused with genuineness and generosity, it's



Sarah 11:58

almost like a call to action, isn't it? And it makes me think about how like true religious experience, the kind that creates, like lasting change, it extends far beyond just personal peace, right? It's about taking those spiritual insights, that inner transformation, and channeling them into outward action, into service to others. Now that



John 12:20

is a powerful thought. Yeah, and a perfect note to end on, wouldn't you say?



Sarah 12:23

I think so. This deep dive has been incredible, honestly, just full of so many thought provoking

I think so. This deep dive has been incredible, honestly, just ran of so many thought provoking ideas. I know I'm gonna be pondering these concepts for quite



John 12:30

some time, as you should. The journey of spiritual growth is ongoing, always unfolding. The key is to stay curious, stay open and just embrace the exploration. You never know what insights you might uncover along the way.