

Part 4, Paper 126, The Two Crucial Years, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's teenage years, Urantia Book, real temptation, Joseph's death, family responsibilities, practical Jesus, tax collector incident, Lord's Prayer, Book of Enoch, Son of Man, internal struggle, faith and responsibilities, compassionate leader, everyday growth, spiritual journey

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

- S

Sarah 00:00

Okay, so are you ready to kind of dive deep into a part of Jesus's life we don't really think about a lot, like his teenage years. And you know what we're using as our guide?
- J

John 00:09

Yeah, tell
- S

Sarah 00:10

me the Urantia Book, specifically paper 126 called the two crucial years. And we're talking about like a time that's often, I don't know, kind of shrouded in mystery, those years between when he a kid and then when he starts his ministry.
- J

John 00:23

Yeah, you're right. Most people, they kind of skip over that. They go straight from a 12 year old Jesus in the temple debating to when he's older and, you know, doing his thing. But the Urantia Book really gets into it. It tries to show us what this period was like for him, you know, being a young guy, figuring out who he is and dealing with all this responsibility and faith, right?
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Sarah 00:41

And so let's imagine for a second. We've got a 14 year old Jesus. He's back in Nazareth after that incredible trip to Jerusalem and the temple. Can you imagine those talks with his family

after something like, Oh,

J John 00:54

for sure, I bet he seemed like a different person when he got back totally. That's actually what they call this time in the Urantia Book, they call it the real temptation. It's this time when he's struggling inside, you

S Sarah 01:05

know. And it's not even necessarily like resisting all the bad stuff in the world, right? It's more like he's dealing with knowing he has this huge purpose, but he's also got normal human emotions, yeah,

J John 01:17

he sees the religious leaders and how fake they are, and it bothers him, you know? Yeah, and he's really affected by all the pain people around him are going through. That's something

S Sarah 01:24

everyone can relate to, right? Just trying to figure out who you're supposed to be. And he's looking out at the same places where all these biblical stories happened, and he's got this weight on his shoulders, this destiny, but he also just wants to connect with people and help them. I

J John 01:40

think that's what makes the Urantia Book so interesting. It shows us that Jesus, yeah, he knows he's divine, but he's not this, like, distant figure. You know, he's learning to be a carpenter taking care of his family. It's a good reminder that even as a teenager, he was both divine and totally normal at the same time.

S Sarah 01:58

And then just when it seems like he's figuring things out. Life throws him a curveball.

J John 02:03

Oh no. What happened? Joseph,

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Sarah 02:04

his dad dies, and it happens suddenly. Can you imagine losing your dad that young, and then on top of that, at 14, Jesus is the man of the house now. Oh, wow. He's gonna take care of his mom and his siblings. Yeah,

J

John 02:15

talk about growing up fast. That changes everything. He can't go study religion in Jerusalem anymore, that's for sure. Now he has to be a leader in his family, dealing with all the sadness and making the tough choices that's a lot different from what you'd expect for his childhood. You know?

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Sarah 02:30

Yeah, it really makes you see how these experiences, as difficult as they were, shaped him into the compassionate leader he became. He wasn't just talking about love and understanding. He was living it, taking care of his family, you know,

J

John 02:44

absolutely and you know, what else is interesting? What's that? The Urantia Book doesn't shy away from showing how practical Jesus was during this time. He had to make really hard decisions about money, like selling things, yeah, and dealing with people he owed money to. We don't usually picture Jesus that way, do we?

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Sarah 03:00

No, not at all. It's like he's not just this spiritual figure up on a mountain. He's a young guy dealing with real problems, right? Money problems, family drama, the

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John 03:09

works exactly. I think it makes his stories so much better, so much more real, totally, and honestly, it makes his accomplishments even more impressive. I

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Sarah 03:16

agree with that. So we've got this, like, really capable young man, right? He's basically had to become an adult way too soon. But it sounds like, according to the Urantia book, he's not just getting by. He's doing really well. Oh

J

John 03:29

yeah, by 15, he's not only taking care of his family, but people see him as a really good craftsman and businessman. See,

S Sarah 03:36

that's so interesting to me, because we don't often picture Jesus that way, like he's not just off studying by himself. He's in the marketplace, dealing with money, making deals. It kind of makes his story so much richer, totally.

J John 03:47

And it gets even better. Okay, so the Urantia Book tells this story about a tax collector, and this guy actually tries to take the family's most prized possession, they're harp.

S Sarah 04:00

Wait, seriously, they're harp. Yeah, you've got to be kidding me. I

J John 04:05

know right? Of all the things to take a heart, well, think about it. It probably wasn't just an instrument to them. It could have been something passed down in the family, or maybe they played it to make money. Either way, it wasn't just about the money, you

S Sarah 04:17

know, yeah, it was about holding on to something meaningful, something important to them. Exactly. So what did Jesus do? He didn't just let it happen. Did he? No

J John 04:24

way. He goes right up to the tax collector and argues with him, yeah. And it says he was so convincing, had such good reasons, that the guy actually gave up and left them alone.

S Sarah 04:34

Wow, good for him. You can really see how these moments sticking up for his family. It built that strong sense of right and wrong that's so important to who Jesus became.

J John 04:44

Absolutely. It wasn't just ideas to him. It was about fighting for what was right, especially for

Absolutely it wasn't just ideas to him. It was about fighting for what was right, especially for people who couldn't fight for themselves. I like that. It's like what he was saying about love and compassion. He was living it right. And

 Sarah 04:56

it wasn't all big fights with tax collectors either. Oh, that's right, the.

 John 04:59

Book also talks about something really familiar, the Lord's Prayer. Really.

 Sarah 05:03

What about it? I always figured that was, you know, like direct from God, divinely inspired, and all that it was, but

 John 05:11

maybe not exactly how we think. The Urantia Book says it kind of came about naturally. Like Jesus was trying to help his younger siblings with prayer. He wanted them to connect with God in a deeper way, not just say the same words over and over, yeah, you know? So he told them to just talk from their heart, use their own words. That's

 Sarah 05:29

amazing. It kind of changes how you think about that prayer, doesn't it? It's not just a bunch of words to memorize. It's like he's giving us an example of how to connect with God ourselves, being real, being honest, exactly.

 John 05:42

And that's something you see with Jesus his whole life, that honesty about his faith,

 Sarah 05:46

yeah. And keep in mind, he's doing all this for his family, helping them with their faith, but he never stops questioning his own beliefs, right? Like he's still trying to figure out who he is, what His purpose is, reading the scriptures, trying to understand those prophecies about the Messiah.

 John 06:01

J John 06:01

It's true, he's living this really full life, dealing with more than most adults can handle, but he still makes time to think and learn and pray. Makes

S Sarah 06:10

you realize that growing spiritually, it's not some separate thing. It's part of everything. Your everyday life, your experience, is the people you know. I

J John 06:17

think so too. And it's during this time in his life, this time of huge growth, that he comes across a book that really gets him thinking,

S Sarah 06:26

oh yeah, which one

J John 06:27

the Book of Enoch?

S Sarah 06:29

Hmm, that one's not in the Bible, is it?

J John 06:31

You're right. It's one of those books that some people think should be in the Bible, but it's not officially part of it. So

S Sarah 06:38

how does it fit in with Jesus's story then,

J John 06:40

well, it talks about this idea of the Son of Man, and it really spoke to Jesus.

S Sarah 06:45

Okay, now remind me again, what's the Son of Man all about? Right?

J

John 06:48

So, in the Book of Enoch, Son of man, he's this divine being, like he's always been with God from the very beginning, but he chooses to come down to earth to live among us. He's really powerful, but the most important thing about him is his humility. He's all about serving others.

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Sarah 07:03

So it's not just about being a king or a ruler. Then, Nope,

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John 07:05

it's deeper than that. It's like God's empathy, you know, choosing to be vulnerable instead of powerful, choosing to serve instead of rule. And the Urantia Book suggests that this idea, it really hit home for Jesus, interesting, like he was already trying to figure out his own purpose, his own mission. And here's

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Sarah 07:23

this whole other way of thinking about the Messiah. It makes you think about how he saw himself. You know, was it a relief to read this, or did it just make things more confusing? That's

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John 07:33

a great question, and it's something we'll definitely talk about more as we keep going with Jesus's story.

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Sarah 07:38

This is where it gets really interesting to me, because we've got Jesus, right? He's trying to figure out who he is. On the one hand, you've got all these expectations that the Messiah will be this warrior, this king. But then he's drawn to this idea from the Book of Enoch, about being humble, about serving others, talk about a tough spot to be in. Oh,

J

John 07:57

absolutely. It's this huge internal struggle for him. And the Urantia Book makes it clear that this wasn't easy for Jesus. Well, questioning everything, trying to make sense of it all, you know,

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Sarah 08:08

it makes you realize he was human too. I mean, yeah, he's the son of God and all that, but he still had to deal with doubts and uncertainty, just like us exactly.

J

John 08:16

And don't forget, all of this is happening while his life is getting harder, right? They're dealing with money problems, family stuff, all kinds of things.

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Sarah 08:24

The Urantia Book doesn't shy away from that, does it? Not at all. There's

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John 08:28

even a story about them trying to buy a small farm. Oh, yeah, and they get completely ripped off some official working for Herod Antipas basically steals all their money. Wow.

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Sarah 08:37

Talk about adding insult to injury. It's like one thing after another. You almost want to step in and tell him, don't worry. It gets better. But then again, maybe those tough times are what made him so strong.

J

John 08:47

That's what the Urantia Book wants us to see. I think, yeah, it's in those really difficult moments that we see who Jesus really is. He could have gotten bitter and angry, given up on everything, but he doesn't. He never does. He leans into his faith, into his responsibilities. It's

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Sarah 09:03

kind of a challenge for all of us, isn't it? It's easy to talk about being strong and positive when things are good, but when you're dealing with one problem after another, it's a whole different story. It's so true. And what I find really inspiring is that the Urantia Book doesn't say Jesus was just born that way, you know, like he didn't have a choice but to be strong, right? It shows us that he chose it every single day. He chose faith over fear, love over hate, assuming others over just thinking about himself.

J

John 09:33

That's really powerful. And it's not like he was just closed off focusing only on his faith. Oh no, not at all. We see him trying to learn new things. Exactly like he'd spend time at those caravan

not at all. We see him trying to learn new things, exactly like he'd spend time at those caravan
lots, talking to travelers from

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Sarah 09:43

all over. He wanted to understand the world, different cultures. Everything wasn't enough

J

John 09:47

for him to just be devout, you know, he wanted to live it, to learn, to grow.

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Sarah 09:51

And in doing that, I think you really start to see the amazing teacher and leader he would
become. Right?

J

John 09:59

All. All those qualities, the compassion, the empathy, the way he understood people, it all came
from what he lived through, what he experienced firsthand. It's

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Sarah 10:07

like they say experience is the best teacher, and it sounds like

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John 10:10

Jesus had some pretty incredible experiences during those years. Yeah,

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Sarah 10:14

both through what he read and what he lived through. That's

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John 10:16

really the most important thing I take away from the Urantia books version of Jesus's teenage
years? Yeah, it reminds us that we grow the most when we're in those in between moments.
You know, not

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Sarah 10:28

the huge life changing events, but just the everyday stuff, the ups and downs. And that's true for all of us, even someone like Jesus. It really makes you think about those parts of any story, the quiet parts where someone is growing and changing,

J John 10:43

they're so important, even if we don't always see them that way at the time. So

S Sarah 10:47

to anyone listening, next time you're going through something tough or you're just not sure what's next, think about Jesus as a teenager. Use it as inspiration to keep growing, keep learning. Don't be afraid to try new things, to see things from a different perspective, and remember that being strong and kind are two of the most powerful things you can be. You never know. You might surprise yourself with what you can achieve beautifully. Sid, thanks for joining me on this deep dive. It's been really eye opening. My

J John 11:14

pleasure always happy to talk about this stuff.