

Part 4, Paper 128, Jesus' Earl...y Manhood, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus' early manhood, Urantia Book, divine nature, human challenges, God's nature, financial stress, sibling rivalries, intentional separation, spiritual calling, family support, practical decisions, divine-human balance, family responsibilities, relatable moments, ordinary life

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

- S** Sarah 00:00
Ready to explore a side of Jesus you might not expect. We're diving into those often overlooked years between adolescence and the start of his ministry. Yeah, those
- J** John 00:08
years from 21 to 26
- S** Sarah 00:10
exactly guided by what the Urantia Book offers on this period. Well,
- J** John 00:13
what's really interesting is the Urantia book's take on the purpose of this time in Jesus's life. They say it's twofold,
- S** Sarah 00:19
okay, now that's got me really curious. I mean, we always think about Jesus's time on Earth as being about his ministry, right? So what else is going on here?
- J** John 00:29

So the Urantia Book really emphasizes that Jesus, as the Son of God, still had to earn, you know, the right to rule his universe, and these years living as a human were crucial to that. Like even with His divine nature, experiencing the joys and sorrows of humanity firsthand was a necessary part of his journey, like a cosmic

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Sarah 00:49

internship, almost to really understand what it means to be human, you gotta live it. Right. Exactly. Yeah, okay, but you said there's another layer to this twofold purpose,

J

John 01:00

absolutely. So while he was living among us, facing those very human challenges, he was also kind of subtly revealing the nature of God, you know, what many would call God to humanity.

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Sarah 01:14

So it's like, by experiencing our world, he could make the divine relatable, yeah, bridge that gap between, you know, Heaven and Earth every day. But What's so striking to me, as we're digging into this, is how ordinary his life seems, right, during these years, carpentry, family drama. It's not exactly what you picture when you think about, you know, someone with a cosmic destiny. Yeah,

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John 01:37

that juxtaposition is what makes it so interesting. Yeah, you see him taking on odd jobs. The text even talks about his family worrying about finances.

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Sarah 01:45

Wow, so they were dealing with financial stress, just like the rest of us. Imagine

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John 01:49

that that's wild. The family of the Son of God dealing with budgeting. It makes you wonder,

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Sarah 01:54

did Jesus ever use his powers to get out of like a parking ticket? Right? We'll never know, but it's not just the financial worries. The text mentions Jesus navigating sibling rivalries, especially with his younger brother, Jude. Any older sibling can relate to that. What was Jude like? Oh,



John 02:13

he has a handful. The text really paints him as this mischievous character always stirring things up, but it really highlights Jesus's incredible patience in dealing with him. Ah, so



Sarah 02:24

just like a normal older brother, exactly keeps it real. Yeah, it



John 02:27

adds this layer of realism to the whole narrative. Yeah,



Sarah 02:29

those small, relatable details make the extraordinary elements even more powerful, for sure. And speaking of extraordinary, there are these fascinating moments of foreshadowing sprinkled throughout this period, like you see glimpses of his true nature peeking through. Yeah, and his encounter with Stephen is a great example. Oh, yeah. For those unfamiliar, Stephen becomes a pivotal figure in the early Christian faith.



John 02:54

He does, and it's amazing to see how their paths crossed all those years earlier. Yeah, the text even suggest that this meeting had a deep impact on Steven, almost like a seed was planted that would bloom later on. It



Sarah 03:07

makes you wonder about those chance encounters in our own lives and the impact they might have down the road. Absolutely, yeah, but it wasn't just chance encounters that were shaping his path. He also made some deliberate choices that really highlight his character, yeah, like his refusal to accept financial backing for leadership roles makes you think like he had a sense of his true calling, even back then,



John 03:28

for sure, this was a time when Alexandria was the place to be right, right for knowledge, scholarship, it was the place and Jesus, he was celebrated for his intellect, And he was offered a chance to lead a prestigious school that could rival Alexandria. Wow.



Sarah 03:45

 Sarah 03:15
Okay, so we're talking influence prestige, exactly. And he walks away, he

 John 03:49
chooses a different path.

 Sarah 03:51
That's a power move, it is. It makes me think of those moments where we have to choose between what looks good on paper right and what feels right deep down. Yeah. What do you think this decision reveals about Jesus? It shows

 John 04:03
us that even before his ministry began, Jesus, he prioritized his spiritual calling over worldly success. Yeah, he understood that true impact didn't come from institutions or wealth, but something deeper. And

 Sarah 04:18
here's where it gets really interesting. The text mentions that Jesus never bragged about this, right? Like he even heard people recounting the story of the software in Damascus, and never said, Hey, that was me. It's

 John 04:30
this subtle detail, but it speaks volumes, and it actually points to this pattern of intentional separation, intentional

 Sarah 04:37
separation. Now, that's interesting. What do you mean by that?

 John 04:40
It's almost as if he deliberately compartmentalized different parts of his life, right, preventing a cult of personality from overshadowing his message.

 Sarah 04:48
So he's focused on the substance of his teachings, exactly, not on being a celebrity. He



John 04:53

wanted people to believe in Him for the right reasons. Wow. And this intentionality is. It extended to his relationship with his family as he prepared for his eventual ministry. It's



Sarah 05:04

like he understood that true influence. It doesn't come from hype, it comes from authenticity, right, letting the message speak for itself, but that intentional separation, especially from his family, that must have been so hard. I mean, they had to have known something big was coming, right? Absolutely,



John 05:18

especially as he's getting into his mid 20s, right? You know, the text describes this real shift. It's like he's becoming more aware of his divine power, but also knowing it's not time to fully embrace it. Can you imagine that internal struggle? It's hard to even fathom that the weight of destiny, yeah, but also wanting to, like, live a normal life.



Sarah 05:41

It's a lot, but even with all that going on, he's still so present for his family. I mean, the text even mentions that he continued to support them financially, even after he stepped down as head of the household.



John 05:53

Totally. It's another example of that duality, right? You'll have the divine Son of God, but also this very human brother and son making sure his family is cared for. Yeah, he was looking out



Sarah 06:04

for them. And, you know, the Urantia Book mentions him making this formal agreement with his brother, James, basically gives him ownership of their carpentry shop in exchange for taking care of the family. Wow, legally binding agreement. It's



John 06:17

pretty fascinating. I



Sarah 06:18



Sarah 06:18

mean, it's not exactly how I picture Jesus interacting with his family usually, right?



John 06:22

I know it might seem unusual, but I think it really speaks to his practicality. Yeah, you know, he's not just thinking about their spiritual well being, but also their earthly needs.



Sarah 06:31

Yeah, he wanted them to be secure exactly, and



John 06:35

he goes about it in a way that makes sense, you know, that they would have understood at the time, right?



Sarah 06:39

It's a good reminder that even when we're pursuing our bigger purpose in life, you know, those everyday acts of love, of responsibility, they still matter 100% and it wasn't all serious business. No, there are these sweet moments described, you know, like him taking time to entertain his younger siblings and their friends with stories. I love those little details. Can you imagine carrying the weight of, you know, his future mission, right, and still making time for just simple joys? Yeah, it's incredibly humanizing. Laughter with your siblings,



John 07:12

totally, yeah. It reminds us we don't have to be somber and serious all the time to be, you know, spiritual, right? Joy and laughter, they have a place, even in the midst of big life changes.



Sarah 07:23

Yeah. And the text seems to suggest that it was that ability to move between those different parts of himself, the philosophical, you know, the playful, the divine, the human, that made him so relatable to those around him.



John 07:36

Absolutely, he was present, right? Yeah, in every moment, whether he was discussing deep theological concepts or just telling stories to children, yeah, he was there that authenticity is something we can all aspire to

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Sarah 07:47

have totally it's like he embodied that balance we all strive for, you know, being driven by purpose but not losing sight of the simple joys. Yeah. But as we get closer to the latter part of this period, there's this growing awareness his time in Nazareth, it's coming to an end. How does the text portray that transition, that feeling of, you know, inevitability. It's like there's this tension building. You can just feel it, you know, oh, yeah, as he gets closer to, like, stepping into his destiny, How did his family, especially Mary, deal with all of this as his departure is getting closer, well, I

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John 08:22

think the text does a beautiful job of capturing, you know, those bittersweet emotions of this time, right? You see Mary, and she's clearly grappling with with the reality of her son's purpose. Yeah, she's proud, of course, yeah. But you sense this sadness to this letting go that I think any parent can relate to. It's

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Sarah 08:40

that universal experience, watching your kids step into their own path, even when that path, it takes them away from you. And

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John 08:47

for Mary, it wasn't just geographic distance either, right? This was, this was her son stepping into a role that that was beyond human comprehension, right? I mean, it highlights that even those closest to Jesus, they had to grapple with, like, the magnitude of who he truly was, and

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Sarah 09:03

isn't that what we still do today? Totally I mean, we're still trying to reconcile the human Jesus with the divine. It's both, right? It's like this period gives us this little window into that tension, but on this really personal, intimate level,

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John 09:16

it does. And, you know, exploring Jesus's humanity, his struggles, his triumphs, especially within a family. I think it makes his message, it makes it accessible, right? Like it becomes less about these distant doctrines and more about how do we navigate our purpose when we have relationships responsibilities? Yeah,

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Sarah 09:36

it's like that, saying we see the divine and the ordinary Exactly.

J John 09:39

And in these last few years before his ministry begins, you really see how intentional Jesus is about preparing his family. Yeah, it's not just tying up loose ends. It's like he's giving them, you know, the tools, the strength to carry on without him physically present. It's

S Sarah 09:56

huge. He appoints James, his brother, as the head of the family. Right, which is just so practical. But I think even beyond that, you see that he seems to nurture each of his siblings like unique talents. He's helping them find their own paths.

J John 10:10

Yeah, so he's looking out for them on all levels, practical, emotional, even spiritual, absolutely, 100% so you've taken this deep dive into this, these often overlooked years, they are, what's, what's the one thing you hope our listeners will take away from from this exploration, you know, I think, for me, this, this reminder, these extraordinary figures, like Jesus, they live deeply human lives too. They laughed, they cried, they argued with their siblings, you know, they worried about their family and and it's in those very human experiences that, you know, we find a reflection of of ourselves, yeah, but also, I think, this invitation to approach our own lives, you know, with all our messy contradictions and complexities, with more compassion, with intentionality, and this willingness to to embrace the ordinary and the extraordinary that

S Sarah 10:56

is beautifully said. It's a good reminder that the divine. It's not just in these grand pronouncements, it's in those quiet human moments that actually make up a life, right? And for you listening as you're going about your day, think about this, what seemingly insignificant experiences are you overlooking, what hidden depths, what unexpected connections might you discover, right? If you approach your own life with that same sense of curiosity, of wonder that we've tried to bring to this exploration. I love that. Thanks for joining us for this deep dive.