

Part 4, Paper 137, Tarrying Time in Galilee, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's apostles, Urantia Book, tarrying time, Simon Peter, inner potential, James and John, Philip and Nathaniel, wedding at Cana, divine mission, universal laws, Capernaum synagogue, kingdom of heaven, inner transformation, childlike faith, spiritual growth

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

- J

John 00:00

All right, ready for a deep dive. We're gonna unpack a really pivotal time in Jesus's life, the selection of his first apostles,
- S

Sarah 00:08

definitely always exciting to see how those pieces came together. Absolutely
- J

John 00:11

and we're gonna be looking at this through the lens of the Urantia Book, specifically paper 137
- S

Sarah 00:18

Ah, yes, tarrying time in Galilee. A fascinating look at this period. Yeah, it's
- J

John 00:24

period that I think sometimes gets glossed over. It does, doesn't
- S

Sarah 00:27

it? We want to jump right to the miracles and the big teachings, but

 John 00:30
Right? But this is the foundation Exactly. It's

 Sarah 00:33
like, how did this group, this team? How did they come together? And what does that tell us about Jesus's approach, right? And

 John 00:38
his message, how we built that foundation, exactly. And the Urantia Book does not shy away from some of the maybe we could even call it drama. Oh,

 Sarah 00:47
absolutely human reactions, right? Yes, to this very extraordinary experience. Yeah.

 John 00:52
I mean, let's start with Andrew and Simon Peter. Okay, we see that Andrew is immediately convinced about Jesus, but Simon Peter has some some hesitation. Well, yeah.

 Sarah 01:03
I mean, think about it, you're being asked to leave everything you know, right, to follow this person who claims to be the saint of God. It's a huge it's a huge thing. And

 John 01:12
he's also leaving John the Baptist, George, his teacher. So there's a lot at stake. There is a lot, yeah, and the Urantia Book even points out that Jesus gives Simon a new name Peter,

 Sarah 01:23
which is fascinating, right? Rock. What does that tell us? I mean, it's like even at that early stage, he sees that potential, that inner strength, even amidst the doubt, which is so human Absolutely.

 John 01:24



John 01:34

And it kind of foreshadows that, that strength that will develop Exactly,



Sarah 01:38

exactly. It's this beautiful recognition that you know, doubt and faith are not mutually exclusive, right?



John 01:46

And that we see over and over again in the Urantia Book that that focus on inner potential rather than outward appearances,



Sarah 01:52

exactly. And you know, it's not just Peter, who's who's experiencing this whole range of emotions. We've got James and John, oh yes,



John 01:59

the sons of Zebedee. They're



Sarah 02:01

quite a pair, aren't they?



John 02:02

They are. I mean, the Urantia Book portrays them with a little bit of well, humor, wouldn't you say? Yes,



02:07

a bit of a bit of ambition there. Yes, they're a little miffed



John 02:11

they weren't chosen first. To put it mildly,



Sarah 02:14

just a tad. Yeah. Makes you wonder, did Jesus have a sense of humor about it all? Because it's, it's kind of a funny image, isn't it? Yeah,

J

John 02:21

you can almost imagine him with a little twinkle in his eye, yeah, gently teasing them about their their eagerness.

S

Sarah 02:27

Oh, absolutely. But what I find so interesting is he doesn't dismiss their desire for, let's call it prominence, right? He uses it as this teaching moment. He says, Look the kingdom of heaven. It doesn't work like the hierarchies of this world. Yeah, it's a different kind of Kingdom. And he even tells them, You are already with me in the spirit of the kingdom, like hinting at this deeper connection they already had. It's

J

John 02:54

like the Urantia Book is saying this connection to the divine, it's already there within us. Yeah, it's this

S

Sarah 02:59

beautiful reminder that, you know, we're all a part of something much, much greater than ourselves, even when we don't

J

John 03:06

realize it. And that brings us to Philip and Nathaniel, right? Two

S

Sarah 03:10

more personalities added to this very interesting mix. And I love how the Urantia Book

J

John 03:14

presents them, because they represent, yet again, a different dynamic. They do, don't they? We have Philip, who's already drawn to Jesus's message. He's

S

Sarah 03:22

ready. He's He's a believer. He's in but then Nathaniel

ready. He's the s-a-believer. He's in but then Nathaniel,

J John 03:25
oh, Nathaniel, the skeptic. Oh yeah, who could forget that line? Can

S Sarah 03:29
anything good come out of Nazareth?

J John 03:31
I mean, come on, we've

S Sarah 03:32
all been there, right? Absolutely. We've all had our doubts or questions.

J John 03:35
But instead of, I don't know, being dismissive or annoyed by Nathaniel's skepticism, Jesus responds with this incredible compassion, yes. And

S Sarah 03:44
I think that's such an important point, because it's not just about believing everything you hear. It's about being honest in your seeking, yeah. And Jesus sees that in Nathanael. He sees that genuine desire to know the truth, even if it means questioning everything. So we've got

J John 04:01
this really interesting group, all these different personalities coming together around Jesus, yeah,

S Sarah 04:06
it's like the beginnings of a movement, right? Absolutely.

J John 04:09
And the Urantia Book, it doesn't waste any time. It takes us right into the heart of it. It does.

And

 Sarah 04:14
you know where it takes us?

 John 04:16
Where's that?

 04:16
The wedding at Cana, of course, a story I

 John 04:20
thought I knew,

 Sarah 04:21
Oh yeah, we think we know it right the water into wine.

 John 04:25
But the Urantia Book, it adds some layers to this story that I don't think I ever really considered.
It

 Sarah 04:30
really does. I mean, first of all, we see Jesus's humanity in this story.

 John 04:35
Oh yeah, how so

 Sarah 04:36
well we see his internal struggle. You know, he wants to help his mother, right?





John 04:40

Classic mom situation, yeah, running out of wine at a wedding, exactly.



Sarah 04:43

But he's also aware of his commitment to his his divine mission.



John 04:48

It's like we often forget that Jesus was both fully God and fully human, exactly.



Sarah 04:52

And the Urantia Book does such a good job of showing that duality,



John 04:56

yeah, and how complex it must have been to navigate those two. Realities,



Sarah 05:00

absolutely. And then there's the miracle itself, right the water into wine, which, by the way, the Urantia Book presents in a very interesting way, really, how? So it kind of challenges the idea of Jesus as this magician figure, you know, like he just snaps his fingers and breaks natural laws. Yeah, it suggests that it's more about a deeper understanding of universal laws, okay, so



John 05:25

less about magic, more about a kind of cosmic knowledge.



Sarah 05:28

Exactly. It's like Jesus is tapping into something much larger than himself, a power that's always present.



John 05:34

And this power, is this something that, according to the Urantia Book, is available to us, or is it just Jesus specific?

- S** Sarah 05:42
That's a great question. And the Urantia Book suggests that it's not just Jesus specific. It's about aligning ourselves with the will of God. Okay,
- J** John 05:49
so it's accessible, but it requires a certain, I don't know, surrender
- S** Sarah 05:53
exactly, a surrender of our limited human perspective, and a willingness to tap into that greater reality. Fascinating.
- J** John 06:00
And what I find really interesting is that the Urantia Book actually says that even Jesus was surprised by the appearance of the wine. Isn't that wild. It's like it wasn't even a calculated thing. It was this spontaneous act of of, I don't know, divine intervention, or maybe just tapping into that deeper reality, as you said, right?
- S** Sarah 06:20
Like even he was witnessing this unfolding in a new way. It
- J** John 06:23
really adds a whole other level to the story, doesn't it? It makes it less about, look what Jesus can do, and more about, wow. Look what's possible when we align with the divine, exactly.
- S** Sarah 06:32
And that journey, that alignment, it takes us back to Capernaum.
- J** John 06:36
Okay, so after the wedding, they head back. Yeah. And this might seem like
- S** Sarah 06:40
a quiet period, you know, not a lot of action, but the Urantia Book, it emphasizes the importance of this time.

J John 06:47
Why is that? I mean, what are they doing in Capernaum? It's a period

S Sarah 06:51
of preparation, of intense internal transformation for both Jesus and his disciples.

J John 06:57
Okay, so less about outward action, more about inward reflection.

S Sarah 07:00
Exactly. It's like they're integrating everything they've experienced so far

J John 07:04
and probably trying to wrap their heads around, who is this person that we're

S Sarah 07:08
following Absolutely. You can almost feel the anticipation building, can't you? Like they're ready to go public, to shout

J John 07:14
it from the rooftops, yes, but Jesus, he's

S Sarah 07:17
he's holding back. Interesting. Why

J John 07:19
do you think that is,

S Sarah 07:20

I think it goes back to what we were talking about earlier, the contrast between worldly expectations and spiritual reality.

J

John 07:27

Right? The crowd, they're probably expecting a political revolution. Exactly. They

S

Sarah 07:30

want a miracle worker, a king, but Jesus

J

John 07:33

is trying to convey something much deeper, something that can't be contained in those boxes,

S

Sarah 07:38

absolutely. And you know what else is interesting about this time in Capernaum, the Urantia Book tells us that Jesus destroyed any written teachings from this period. He destroyed them. Why? It's like he was saying, this isn't about dogma or rules to follow. It's about a lived experience, yes, about an inner transformation that can't be captured in words

J

John 07:58

that's powerful. So instead of writing, what was Jesus doing during this time, teaching,

S

Sarah 08:02

but in a different way. The Urantia Book talks about a four month period where he intensifies his teachings with His disciples. Okay, so really diving deep with this small group? Exactly. It's a time of deep fellowship, of learning to live alongside someone who embodies both human and divine

J

John 08:18

qualities. And I imagine, a time of great challenge as well.

S

Sarah 08:21

Absolutely, the Urantia Book doesn't shied away from showing us the human reactions even within this inner circle. Give me an example. Well, for instance, we see kidders and patience.

He's ready for action, ready for the world to see what they've learned. He wants to get the band back together, exactly. But then you have Andrew, who's much more contemplative, taking it all in.



John 08:42

So even within this small group, there's a diversity of responses to Jesus, yeah, which



Sarah 08:47

I think is so important because it reminds us that spiritual growth, it's not a one size fits all. It's messy, it's personal, absolutely. And one of the things that Jesus emphasizes during this time is how to navigate the complexities of the world.



John 09:00

What do you mean, like the social and political landscape? Exactly,



Sarah 09:04

he tells them, don't align yourselves with any particular faction. Don't get caught up in the political battles of the day. So



John 09:11

even back then, there was that sense of needing to choose a side. Oh,



Sarah 09:16

yeah. And Jesus is saying, My kingdom. It transcends all of



John 09:20

that. It's a different kind of Kingdom altogether, exactly. So we've got this group steeped in Jesus's teachings, living it, breathing it, and then the Urantia Book takes us to this, I don't know, almost like a culminating moment.



Sarah 09:33

It really does, doesn't it? It's like all the preparation is leading up to this, right? Jesus's



John 09:37

sermon in the Capernaum synagogue. You can almost feel the anticipation, the weight of expectation, absolutely.



Sarah 09:44

I mean, you've got to remember the crowds. They're expecting a certain something from a messiah. They're ready for fireworks, right? A political message, a call to arms, maybe even some more water into wine. Who knows? Right?



John 09:56

A good party trick never hurts. But Jesus, well, he's got. Something else in mind,



Sarah 10:00

he does, doesn't he? And this is where the Urantia Book really digs deep. Okay, so



John 10:05

tell me more about this sermon. What's he saying?



Sarah 10:07

He starts talking about the kingdom of heaven, but he's not talking about a physical place, not a kingdom you can find on the map, exactly. And he's not talking about a political system either. This is something different.



John 10:19

Okay, so if it's not a place, and it's not a system. What is it? It's



Sarah 10:23

an inner transformation. It's a shift in perspective, a way of being in the world that's honestly it's radical, radical in what sense it challenges everything people thought they knew about power, about authority.



John 10:35

Okay, so less about outward structures. more about an inward change.

...and, of course, the kingdom of God is not a reward for good behavior,

S

Sarah 10:39

exactly. And the Urantia Book emphasizes this point over and over again.

J

John 10:44

Give me an example. How does it describe this kingdom?

S

Sarah 10:47

Well, for one thing, it's not something that's far off in the future, not something you have to die to experience, right? It's not some kind of reward for good behavior. It's a living reality available to everyone right here, right now.

J

John 11:01

That's a pretty radical concept, even today,

S

Sarah 11:03

absolutely. And it goes against everything people at that time, and honestly, even many people today believe right

J

John 11:10

we tend to think of of heaven as this, this far off place, or some kind of, you know, afterlife experience, exactly.

S

Sarah 11:16

But Jesus is saying, No, it's here. It's within you. So

J

John 11:20

how do we access it? How do we tap into this kingdom within?

S

Sarah 11:24

Well, he uses a lot of vivid imagery to explain this. I

J John 11:27
bet he did. Jesus loved the good metaphor he did. For

S Sarah 11:30
instance, he compares the kingdom to a mustard seed. Okay, tiny seed, big plant, exactly small in size, but with the potential for enormous growth.

J John 11:38
So it's not about outward appearances. It's about this inner potential, this spark of the divine that, according to the Urantia Book, we all have within us

S Sarah 11:47
absolutely. And it takes a certain humility to tap into that humility. How so Well, Jesus talks about becoming like little children. There's that childlike faith, again, right? It's that openness, that wonder, that willingness to to just be without all the ego, all the preconceived notions.

J John 12:03
It's like unlearning everything we thought we knew about the world, in a way. Yes,

S Sarah 12:08
it's about approaching life and the divine with a sense of, I don't know, awe, maybe even a little bit of healthy fear. Because, let's

J John 12:16
be honest, encountering the divine, even the idea of it, can be a little intimidating,

S Sarah 12:20
absolutely, but it's also incredibly exciting. And the Urantia Book makes it clear, this isn't a passive process.

J John 12:27

You can't just think your way into the Kingdom Exactly.

S

Sarah 12:29

It requires action. It requires aligning your thoughts, your words, your actions, with the will of God,

J

John 12:35

which is a lifelong journey in and of itself, absolutely. So

S

Sarah 12:39

imagine hearing all of this for the first time. What's your reaction?

J

John 12:43

Honestly, I'd probably be equal parts amazed and terrified, amazed by the possibilities, but also a little overwhelmed by the implications, exactly.

S

Sarah 12:52

And that's kind of the point, isn't it? The arantia book isn't trying to give us all the answers. It's trying to spark that sense of wonder, that desire to explore these deeper realities. And

J

John 13:03

that's what a good deep dive should do. Leave us with more questions than answers and a thirst for further exploration, exactly.

S

Sarah 13:08

And I think this particular section of the Urantia Book, it does that beautifully. It reminds us that the journey of faith, the journey of spiritual growth, it's ongoing

J

John 13:18

and it's deeply personal. What resonates with one person might not resonate with another, and that's okay,

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Sarah 13:25

absolutely. The important thing is that we keep asking questions, keep seeking, keep that sense of wonder alive. Well



John 13:30

said. And on that note, I think we've reached the end of our deep dive for today. But as always, the conversation doesn't end here. It never does. We encourage you to continue exploring the Urantia Book, to delve deeper into these teachings and to see what resonates with you and



Sarah 13:46

maybe even spark some of those deep inner transformations in your own life, absolutely



John 13:50

until next time, keep seeking, keep questioning and keep diving deep you.