

Part 4, Paper 139, The Twelve Apostles, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Urantia Book, Apostles' humanity, Jesus's potential, Andrew and Peter, Sons of Thunder, John's growth, Philip's questions, Thomas's doubt, Nathaniel's honesty, Matthew's gratitude, James and Judas, Simon the Zealot, Judas's complexity, James the Less, true leadership

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

S Sarah 00:00

All right, ready for a real deep dive today, we're going way beyond like the picture book versions of the 12 Apostles. People want to know what's the Urantia Book say about these guys, real people hanging with Jesus.

J John 00:13

That's where it gets interesting, because the Urantia Book, it doesn't shy away from their humanity. It's like flaws, and all you get these little details, these quirks, makes you think, huh, never pictured that about one of the apostles. Yeah,

S Sarah 00:26

it's one thing to talk miracles, sermons, all that, but these guys were with Jesus day in, day out. Had to be arguments, right? Maybe some laughs. I bet sometimes they were just confused. Oh,

J John 00:36

absolutely. And that's what's so cool about the Urantia Book. It reminds us these weren't like perfect saints picked out of a lineup. They were regular folks, each with their own what do you call it baggage? But Jesus saw their potential

S Sarah 00:48

right potential. So the book kind of throws us right in with these guys. But someone hearing this

for the first time, what even is the Urantia Book? Big picture? For

J John 00:58

those who don't know the Urantia Book, yeah, it's this massive text, a deep dive, you could say, on spiritual history, cosmology, the whole deal, and a big part of it. It's about Jesus, His life, His teachings, but like you've never heard him before, it kind of just showed up in the early 1900s presented as this big revelation, right?

S Sarah 01:18

And within that huge EE story, we get these glimpses of the apostles. It's like they become people. You could almost know

J John 01:24

that's it, not just names, right? We see their relationships, the good end, bad, doubts, victories. That's what makes them relatable, even now after all this time. So let's get

S Sarah 01:33

into it. Urantia Book mentions a couple brother duos among the apostles, right? Yeah, two

J John 01:37

sets. We've got Andrew and Simon Peter. Then there's James and John. They were the sons of Zebedee.

S Sarah 01:42

And get this, Jesus nicknamed James and John the Sons of Thunder. What a nickname. I mean, makes you wonder what they were like growing up. Oh, I

J John 01:50

know, right. And the book does say they calmed down eventually, especially John. But you can picture him, can't you? Like they once asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven on a village that dissed them. Wow,

S Sarah 02:01

hold a grudge. Much must have been a handful for their parents. Okay, so those are our

hold a grudge. Much must have been a handicap for their parents. Okay, so those are our dynamic duos, but here's one that might surprise people. Andrew always in Peter's shadow, but he was important.

J John 02:13

Absolutely. Andrew, maybe not the loudest guy in the room, but dependable, organized like the Urantia Book says he was gifted at spotting potential, almost like a like a talent scout for the movement. So

S Sarah 02:24

he saw that spark in Simon, who became Peter, the rock. Speaking of Peter, was the opposite of quiet and organized. Oh, totally

J John 02:33

Peter. He's a trip all heart but impulsive. Remember, he jumps out of the boat to walk on water, but then denies, even knowing Jesus three times.

S Sarah 02:43

And yet, even with those moments, those human moments, Jesus saw something in him, strength that maybe Peter didn't even see himself

J John 02:50

Exactly, and that's a big deal in how the Urantia Book presents these guys. Jesus saw their potential, even when they messed up like we're all works in progress, right? We can do amazing things, but we need guidance. So it's

S Sarah 03:01

not just the brothers who had these interesting relationships, right? Even John, who, you know, later becomes the disciple Jesus loved, even he and Jesus, it's complicated, right?

J John 03:10

See, people get sappy about that phrase, but the Urantia Book, it goes deeper. It wasn't just affection, it was John's capacity to get it like the depths of what Jesus was teaching, it took the others longer,

S

Sarah 03:21

like he was on Jesus's wavelength, and that comes out in his writing later, exactly,

J

John 03:25

John's gospel, all that stuff about love, light, the nature of God. That's John. And then there's revelation. Oh

S

Sarah 03:32

yeah, that's a whole nother deep dive waiting to happen. But speaking of John's writing, the Urantia Book has a pretty wild take on the book of Revelation. Oh

J

John 03:41

yeah. It says what we have now. It's only part of what John wrote, like some of it got lost or maybe, like, hidden away over time. Makes you think, what else did he say? What else did he see about the future?

S

Sarah 03:52

Now, I gotta go on some biblical treasure hunts. But back to John himself, son of thunder, to basically the apostle of love. Quite a journey,

J

John 04:00

it is. And toward the end of his life, his big message over and over, it was just my little children love one another. Never gets old, does it

S

Sarah 04:08

simple, but so powerful. And coming from the guy who wanted to rain down fire shows you what growth looks like. What happens when you open yourself to change,

J

John 04:16

right? And it shows the power of how Jesus taught meeting people where they're at, but guiding them to something deeper, love, compassion, even forgiveness.

S

Sarah 04:27

It's amazing, isn't it, how all these different personalities, they found their place in Jesus's inner circle. The Urantia Book talks about Philip, right? Always the one asking questions. Oh yeah,

J John 04:36

Philip. He was a show me the receipts. Kind of guy, practical, grounded, maybe not the most imaginative fella, but he wanted things clear, you know, no beating around the bush. So, like, if

S Sarah 04:47

Jesus was giving a lesson, Philip would be the one. What raising his hand every five seconds,

J John 04:50

basically, yeah, and, you know, the other apostles probably rolled their eyes sometimes, but Philip, he was relatable, like everyday people. They felt like they could go to him with. Questions, no judgment. He

S Sarah 05:01

made it safe for people who weren't like theologians, you know, speaking of needing things spelled out, Thomas, he's gotten a bad rap as the doubter. True.

J John 05:11

Thomas equals doubt pretty much. Yeah, but the Urantia Book, it adds some layers to that sure he needed proof. Had to see it to believe it. But isn't there a little of that in all of us? Oh,

S Sarah 05:22

yeah, especially when it comes to faith, huge stuff like that. But here's the thing, once Thomas was convinced he was all in in like fearless Urantia Book even says he was one of the bravest.

J John 05:33

See, that's what I mean. What we think of as weaknesses. They can be strengths too. Thomas, he had to have that certainty. But then rock solid

S Sarah 05:41

really makes you think twice about putting labels on people. We can surprise you. Yeah, okay, we can't forget Nathaniel Bartholomew, same guy. He had that classic first meeting with Jesus.

Oh,

J John 05:52

Nathaniel, Can anything good come out of Nazareth? The Urantia Book says he was a deep thinker. Wanted the truth, but also kind of judgy at first glance. He

S Sarah 06:03

had his moments, but got to give him credit. He was willing to be wrong

J John 06:07

Exactly. And once he met Jesus, he was devoted. And the book says honesty, that was Nathaniel's big thing. He'd debate challenged Jesus even. Can you imagine those conversations? I'd love to be a fly on the wall

S Sarah 06:18

for those seems like Jesus liked people who pushed back a little, oh, for

J John 06:21

sure, and talk about unexpected journey, we got to mention Matthew the tax collector, right? Not exactly the most loved profession back then, not winning

S Sarah 06:29

any popularity contest, that's for sure. So what's Matthew's deal in the Urantia Book, gratitude?

J John 06:34

He was so grateful that Jesus just included him. This guy probably shunned by a lot of people, but Jesus didn't care. In Matthew, He showed his appreciation big time, like secretly funded the whole group from zone pop. Now

S Sarah 06:47

that is commitment. Talk about putting your money where your faith is seriously.





John 06:50

It just shows that whole message of Jesus is everyone deserves love no matter what. Past doesn't matter, still relevant,



Sarah 06:56

isn't it? Yep. Okay, so we've got these strong personalities, the brothers, practical. Philip Thomas the questioner, insightful. Nathaniel, generous. Matthew who else is in the mix? Well, we



John 07:07

got another pair, James and Judas the alphaist twins. They were fishermen. Now these two not the most philosophical, you know, but the Urantia Book stresses how dedicated they were, hard workers, the quiet



Sarah 07:19

ones in the back, getting things done. Easy to forget how important that is. Every group needs that totally



John 07:24

they took care of the logistics, the crowds, whatever needed doing. And the Urantia Book reminds us every role matters, even if it seems small, it all fits



Sarah 07:34

together. Good reminder. Sometimes the quietest people, they have the biggest impact. Speaking of different kinds of impact, there's Simon the Zealot. That nickname alone tells you something, right? That's



John 07:45

one way to put it. Simon. He's a trip. Imagine, like this passionate guy all about social justice revolution, and he hears Jesus talking about peace, inner transformation. Must been wild



Sarah 07:56

talk about a culture clash. How'd that even work?

J John 07:59

It's interesting. The Urantia Book says Jesus, he saw the good in Simon's fire, that commitment, even if it was pointed in a different direction. So he helped Simon channel

S Sarah 08:08

it. Instead of fighting the government, he's building up this spiritual kingdom

J John 08:11

Exactly. See, that's the power of how Jesus worked. He could work with anybody find their place in this bigger thing he was doing.

S Sarah 08:19

It's kind of wild, right? How the Urantia Book shows these unexpected sides of the apostles, even someone super gung ho, they fit into Jesus's message of peace. But we still have a couple big names left in our deep dive here, Judas Iscariot. His story always gets kind of messed up, don't you think? And then there's one more apostle might surprise

J John 08:40

people, you're right with Judas. People just go straight to the betrayal. But the Urantia Book, it's like, hold on, there's more to it. It doesn't sugarcoat what he did, but it shows how he got there. Like, Judas wasn't just some mustache twirling bad guy. You know, he's complicated. Makes choices that. Well, we know how it ends, but it's tragic. Yeah,

S Sarah 08:58

it's easy to judge after the fact, but the book, it makes you think about what he was going through, maybe feeling lost, disillusioned, for

J John 09:04

sure. Yeah, Urantia Book talks about Judas pride, how he held on to resentment. Maybe he felt overlooked, jealous even. And instead of dealing with that stuff, it just festered. Turned into something, wow, something awful.

S Sarah 09:18

It's like a reminder for all of us, we got to face those bad feelings we have, right? Talk to someone, get help, because if you don't, it can take you down a dark path, powerful stuff.

J John 09:27

And even with all that Judas did, the Urantia Book says Jesus never gave up on him, never stopped seeing the good, the potential, even when he was betrayed, Jesus showed incredible compassion, hard

S Sarah 09:39

to wrap your head around sometimes, right? That

J John 09:41

kind of love, absolutely. Yeah. Now you mentioned one more apostle, the surprise guest for this. We got to talk about someone who gets overlooked a lot, but being in Jesus's inner circle, that says something, right, James the Less, or James the younger. Sometimes he's called that,

S Sarah 09:55

James the Less. Okay, gotta be honest. Not ringing a bell. What's so special about. Him.

J John 10:00

Well, unlike some of those big personalities we've talked about, James, the less he was cool. Being in the background. Didn't need attention, didn't want power. But the Urantia Book, it calls him a pillar, solid, always there for Jesus, for the other disciples, the

S Sarah 10:14

strong, silent type. But like we were saying before, every group needs that exactly

J John 10:18

what else? Oh, he talks about his faith unshakable, and he really understood Jesus's teachings deep down. In fact, after everything happened, you know, with Jesus' death and all that, James the last he became a leader, important guy in the early church. So

S Sarah 10:34

even if he wasn't the loudest one in the room, he made a difference, a lasting one,



John 10:39

exactly. And his story, it makes you think, huh, maybe true leadership isn't about being famous. Maybe it's just showing up, doing the work, not making a big deal about yourself, doing what



Sarah 10:48

needs to be done, putting something good out into the world. So here we are, end of our deep dive on the 12 Apostles. Urantia Book gives us a new way to see them, doesn't it makes you think, it



John 10:58

does. It's like, forget the stained glass windows. These were real guys, messed up sometimes, sure, but they were capable of incredible things just like us,



Sarah 11:06

yeah. And in their stories, we see our own right, doubts, faith, the ups and downs. It's all part of being human. Beautifully put.



John 11:13

So as you think about these guys, these regular folks who follow Jesus, what sticks with you? What new ideas are you taking away from this deep dive? Keep those questions coming. Keep digging deeper, and until next time will your own journey be full of amazing discoveries?