

Part 4, Paper 140, The Ordinat...he Twelve, Midwayer Commission

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Sermon on the Mount, ordination charge, intimate setting, kingdom within, inner connection, divine nature, sonship, inner transformation, fatherly love, unconditional love, peacemakers, inner world, divine spark, inner kingdom, divine inheritance

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

J John 00:00

Okay, so are you ready to kind of do a deep dive into this whole sermon on the mount thing? I am so ready because you sent over some source material. And I gotta say, this Urantia Book is it's giving me some new insights into this whole thing. Yeah, it's juicy. So good stuff. Okay, so you shared paper 140 with me, yes, and it's basically giving us, like the behind the scenes scoop of what went down right before Jesus gave that famous sermon. Yeah,

S Sarah 00:29

this is like the director's cut of the Sermon on the Mount. I like that. This is like the extended edition, okay? Because what we find out is that this wasn't just like a public address, right? That he was giving, this was actually the ordination charge to his 12 apostles. Okay,

J John 00:44

so this is like an intimate, very intimate setting, and he's giving them the down low. This

S Sarah 00:49

is like the inner circle getting, like the real the real deal, okay, this

J John 00:54

is good stuff, because, you know, I always thought of that sermon as, like this big, booming, you know. pronouncement from on high. right? But now I'm seeing as. like. a much more

personal, yes, exchange, much

S

Sarah 01:07

more intimate, which I like, it's like, think of it this way, instead of reading like the published transcript of a famous speech, imagine you've got your hands on like the handwritten notes that the speaker used to prep. Okay, like we're getting that level of insight,

J

John 01:21

yeah, the raw, unfiltered version, exactly. Okay, so let's talk about these apostles for a second. Because, yeah, they seem to be a little stuck. They really on this whole kingdom idea. Well, they were like, it's almost comical, like, a physical kingdom. Like, seriously,

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Sarah 01:35

every other sentence out of their mouth is like, so about this kingdom. When do we get the armies? When do we storm the castle?

J

John 01:45

Like, are we picking out curtains? Are we measuring for drapes Exactly?

S

Sarah 01:48

They're like, measuring each other for crowns. Yeah, they're polishing their swords. It's like, guys, right? This is not what he's talking about. Then Jesus

J

John 01:56

is like, Guys, guys, yeah, the kingdom of God is within you, within you, and I'm always like, what does that even mean, right? Like, within you is there, like a little throne room in my spleen or something? It's not

S

Sarah 02:09

anatomical, okay? It's not like, you're gonna find it on a map, all right. But it is interesting when we look at what the Urantia Book says about this, okay, because it emphasizes this concept of sonship, sonship. So it's saying we're not just like random creations of God. We're his children, okay? We're his offspring, which means we share in His divine nature, okay, in a very real way. And so this kingdom within, it's not a physical place, right? It's that inner connection to the divine, okay? It's a state of being where we're aligned with God's

J John 02:42
will. So it's about tapping into that inner divinity,

S Sarah 02:44
exactly that spark of the divine within us. That's the kingdom. I like that. Okay, so

J John 02:49
it's not about location, location, location. It's about it's about being a state of mind. But okay,

S Sarah 02:54
if the apostles were hoping for like, a how to manual, right? I feel like they must have walked away a little disappointed

J John 03:00
they were looking for the step by step guide, right? Because they kept asking for rules. Totally they wanted the checklist. Like, remember when James brings up divorce? Oh

S Sarah 03:09
yeah. James is like, so Jesus about these divorce laws. He's like, Can we get some clarification? He's ready to, like, write down the new legal code. But Jesus is like, hold on a minute. I'm not here to settle your earthly disputes. I'm here to establish the Kingdom of Heaven within you. Okay,

J John 03:26
so again, it's that inner transformation. It always comes back to that, not the outer stuff.

S Sarah 03:30
It's about changing your heart, not just your circumstances. But that

J John 03:34
makes so much sense when you pair it with that whole sonship thing, right? Knowing we carry a
piece of the divine within us. The powerful stuff that the kingdom of heaven is a little here

piece of the divine within us. It's powerful stuff that's big, yeah, okay, I do have one little bone to pick, though, with this whole kingdom within business, okay? What's that? Because elsewhere, Jesus talks about being wise and discerning, right? And he even warns about like false prophets, yeah,

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Sarah 03:59

he's not all sunshine and rainbows, right? So

J

John 04:02

how does that jive with the whole become like little children thing? Yeah? Because to me, that feels like a contradiction. Well,

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Sarah 04:09

that's where Thomas comes in. Okay,

J

John 04:10

good old

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Sarah 04:11

Doubting Thomas, bless his heart. He's like the patron saint of skeptics, right? And he actually brings this up to Jesus. He's like, wait a minute, I thought we weren't supposed to be naive here, right? You've told us to watch out for wolves in sheep's clothing, and now you're saying, be like children. Okay, that's the deal. So how does Jesus respond? So Jesus clarifies, and he says, Look, I'm not saying you should be gullible or let people take advantage of you. Okay, when I say, become like children, I'm talking about embodying that pure form of love that a child has for their parent, that unquestioning trust, that desire for connection.

J

John 04:50

That's what I mean. So it's about approaching our relationship with the divine, yes, with that same kind of open heart, exactly. Okay, that's actually really beautiful. It is when. Put it like that, it's about

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Sarah 05:01

that childlike wonder and awe and love, okay? It's not about checking your brain at the door. It's about approaching that relationship with your whole heart. So



John 05:11

it's not about blind faith. It's about it's about a different kind of faith. Okay, I can get behind that. It's about trust.



Sarah 05:17

Trust. It's about love without bargaining, okay? It's about that pure desire for connection.



John 05:24

I like it. And that kind of leads us to another big part of this whole section it does, which is this idea of fatherly love. Fatherly love, exactly, okay, but I gotta be honest, Love thy neighbor. That's like standard issue, right, right? It's like faith 101, what makes this fatherly love? Yeah, so different. So



Sarah 05:41

it's not just about loving your neighbor, okay, it's about loving like God loves okay. And the Urantia Book really emphasizes this, okay, it's about tapping into that boundless, that merciful love that a parent has for a child, even when they screw up, especially when they screw up, okay, even when they make mistakes, even when they're being difficult. Okay? So it's like unconditional, it's that unwavering love, and it's extended even to those that we might consider unworthy. Okay, whoa, yeah, that's a high bar. It's



John 06:11

a high bar. It is, I don't know if I can reach that right,



Sarah 06:14

and that's what's so fascinating here, because the Urantia Book seems to suggest that it is possible that this capacity for this fatherly love, it's part of our divine inheritance,



John 06:25

okay, but then you read those Beatitudes, right? And I'm like, Blessed are the peacemakers, yeah?



Sarah 06:30

How do you do that? How

J John 06:31
do you live that out? Right?

S Sarah 06:32
Every day, exactly. And that's why, I think part of the challenge that the Urantia Book puts forward is that it doesn't shy away from how difficult this is okay. It acknowledges that this is a process, that it's a journey. Yeah. And so when we look at the Beatitudes, they're full of these challenging but inspiring ideas.

J John 06:51
So like, Blessed are the peacemakers? How does that fit into this?

S Sarah 06:56
So it's not just about keeping the peace yourself, okay? It's about actively preventing conflict. Okay, it's about seeing the inherent worth in every single person, even those we disagree with, and that takes a level of compassion that goes way beyond simply avoiding a fight, right? It's about actively trying to heal those divisions, to bridge those gaps, and that's just one example, right? The Urantia Book highlights how each beatitude is essentially a facet of this boundless, fatherly love. Okay,

J John 07:26
so it's not just about what we do

S Sarah 07:28
exactly the why behind the what the why behind the what I like that. It's about the state of your heart.

J John 07:34
So our inner world matters just as much as those outer actions, maybe

S Sarah 07:38
even more so because, and this is where things get really interesting. Okay, tell me more. Jesus actually flips the script on how we typically approach this whole faith and action thing. Okay?

Instead of saying, Okay, if you do all the right things and you'll be righteous, right? He's saying no, no, no, true righteousness comes from within. It's about being not just doing okay. But that's tougher than it sounds. Oh, I bet it is. It's a lot easier to check boxes than it is to actually transform your heart. But

J John 08:06
that's what he's calling us to do. It is and you know what?

S Sarah 08:09
It's not about earning brownie points with God. It's not about racking up good deeds to get into some cosmic Country Club. It's about a fundamental shift in how we see ourselves. So it's about who

J John 08:24
we are, yes, not just what we do. It's about aligning ourselves

S Sarah 08:27
with that divine spark within and letting that inform our actions.

J John 08:31
Okay, so then, how do actions fit into this whole equation?

S Sarah 08:34
That's the million dollar question, isn't it?

J John 08:36
It is because, I mean, Jesus wasn't all about like, sitting around, meditating all

S Sarah 08:41
day. No, he was definitely a man of action, right? So

J John 08:43

— .

how do we reconcile those two things? Well,

S Sarah 08:46

the Urantia Book really emphasizes that Jesus lived his teachings. He wasn't just talking the talk. He was walking the walk. He was the

J John 08:54

embodiment, exactly. He was the embodiment of everything he taught. It was like do as I do. Yes, not just do as I say, he was the ultimate example, but even with a living, breathing example right there in front of them, right? The apostles still struggled. Oh, they totally did, which I find very refreshing. Oh, absolutely.

S Sarah 09:11

It makes it so much more relatable, right? Because I'm sitting here thinking like,

J John 09:15

Okay, if I had Jesus standing right in front of me, right, I'd get it, right?

S Sarah 09:19

You'd think so, wouldn't

J John 09:20

you? But they were human.

S Sarah 09:22

They were like us, and they messed up and

J John 09:25

they messed up, they doubted, and they still had to figure things out as they went along.

S Sarah 09:28

—

They were learning as they went, just like we are, which is

J John 09:32
actually really comforting. It is to know that it's a process, it's

S Sarah 09:35
a journey, not a destination. Okay, so

J John 09:37
speaking of human struggles, yeah, there's a part in here where Jesus really gets into the difference between our outward actions, yes, and our inner motivations. He does, and he does not mince words about hypocrisy. Oh no.

S Sarah 09:51
He calls it out. He

J John 09:52
calls it out. He's

S Sarah 09:53
like, don't even try to come at me with that. So give me an example. He uses anger as an example. Okay, so look, it's not. Enough to just avoid physically harming someone, right? I'm talking about uprooting the anger itself, okay, cultivating a heart of true forgiveness and compassion. So he's saying, our thoughts now, your thoughts, your intentions, all of that inner stuff, our

J John 10:16
inner world matters. It's just as important as what you actually do in the world, but that's easy to forget. Oh, it is, because it's so easy to get caught up in appearances.

S Sarah 10:26
Oh, yeah, keeping up with the Joneses, right? Like, well, at least



John 10:29

I'm not as bad as that guy, exactly. But Jesus is. Like, nope, I'm looking deeper.



Sarah 10:34

He's checking your motives, checking my motives. He wants to see what's really going on in your heart. So



John 10:40

it's not about comparison, yeah, it's about self reflection. It's



Sarah 10:43

about being honest with yourself. And that's where the real work begins, exactly. And you know what? That's how we start to embody the spirit of the kingdom,



John 10:51

by looking inward, by doing the inner work. Okay, so the kingdom is this internal state, yes, this connection to our divine nature. It's



Sarah 11:00

about aligning yourself with that divine spark within.



John 11:04

Okay, so where do the actions come in? We'll dig into that more in a little bit. Okay, because I have a feeling this is gonna be a recurring theme. It definitely is in our conversation. It's the heart of the matter. Okay? So we're gonna take a quick break, yes, and when we come back, we'll delve a little deeper into this whole action versus being thing sounds good. And it's



Sarah 11:23

in those deeper layers, those internal shifts, that we truly begin to embody the spirit of the kingdom,



John 11:30

and that I think is what Jesus was trying to convey to his apostles. I think so too, especially

and that, I think, is what Jesus was trying to convey to his apostles. I think so too, especially during their final evening together, yes, before they set out on their own, their last supper. Okay, so paint the picture for me. What's the vibe like at this final gathering?

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Sarah 11:46

Well, you know, you've got this mix of emotions, okay? You've got excitement, because they're about to embark on this incredible mission, right? They're gonna change the world, right? But there's also this undercurrent of anxiety, okay? Because

J

John 11:59

let's be real, they have no idea what they're getting into, right? It's like

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Sarah 12:04

you want us to do what now exactly, and

J

John 12:07

they've got this radical message, okay, but the world isn't exactly known for embracing new ideas, so no pressure or anything, right? Just go change the hearts and minds of everyone you meet. Okay?

S

Sarah 12:18

So how does Jesus prepare them? Well, he

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John 12:20

doesn't sugarcoat things, okay? He's very direct about the risks involved. Okay,

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Sarah 12:25

so what does he say? He

J

John 12:26

tells them straight up, look, you're gonna face persecution, okay? You're gonna be rejected, right? People might even try to kill you for what you believe. Okay,

- S** Sarah 12:35
so this is not like a walk in the park. No, it's serious business, but they're all in at this point, right? They're committed. They're like, let's do this. They've been
- J** John 12:42
through too much together to back down now. But I mean, even with that level of commitment, yeah, I imagine hearing those words would be a little unsettling. It's a reality
- S** Sarah 12:50
check for sure.
- J** John 12:52
So how does Jesus offer them encouragement? Well, he
- S** Sarah 12:54
reminds them that they've been given something incredibly precious, something powerful, that they get to share with the world. So
- J** John 13:02
it's not just about what they're up against, right? It's about what they have to offer.
- S** Sarah 13:05
It's about the gift they carry within them, okay, like that. And there's this line that always gets me, yeah, he says, Freely you have received. Yes, freely give. Okay, I love that line. It's like he's saying you've been given this incredible connection to the divine. Okay, now go be that conduit for
- J** John 13:25
others. So it's not about hoarding the good stuff. No, it's about letting it flow through you.
- S** Sarah 13:30
Exactly. It's about being a channel for that divine love and grace. But

J John 13:33

I'm sure even with that encouragement, there were still moments of Wait, how do we actually do this? Oh, absolutely, because it's one thing to have a spiritual understanding, right, but it's another thing entirely to put it into practice, especially

S Sarah 13:47

in the face of opposition and persecution.

J John 13:50

So how does Jesus address that challenge?

S Sarah 13:53

Well, he reminds them that they're not alone in this. Okay? He says, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age,

J John 14:00

and I love that, because it speaks to that ever present nature of the Divine. Yes, it's like that inner kingdom is always accessible Exactly. It's not about finding it in a particular time or place. It's about

S Sarah 14:11

tapping into that inner connection,

J John 14:12

that inner resource that's always available to us. Okay, so as we're kind of wrapping up this deep dive, I'm struck by how relevant these teachings still are today? Oh, absolutely. I mean, we're still grappling with these same questions, right? We are. What does it mean to embody our divine inheritance? Right? How do we cultivate that inner kingdom? Yes, in the midst of a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain,

S Sarah 14:37

it's a lifelong journey, isn't it? It is. And I think this section of the Urantia Book, it offers a really powerful roadmap, okay, for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of Jesus's message,



John 14:50

it's a call to action. It is, but not in that traditional sense of building empires or enforcing rules. It's



Sarah 14:56

about something much more radical. Okay, I like where this is going. It's about. Transforming ourselves from the inside out. So



John 15:01

it's about recognizing that spark of divinity within us, yes, and then letting it shine brightly, letting



Sarah 15:07

it illuminate the world around us, okay, I love that. And you know what it makes you think if those ordinary fishermen, right, could be transformed by simply opening themselves to Jesus' message, okay, imagine the potential for transformation within ourselves, yeah, when we truly embrace that same spirit, that



John 15:27

same spirit of love and forgiveness and unwavering faith in the power of the human spirit to connect



Sarah 15:33

with the divine. Ooh, that's good. It's a powerful thought, isn't it?



John 15:36

It is. So they're about to be launched into the world armed with these radical ideas, yeah, and they're facing potential resistance. Yeah, at every turn, I imagine Jesus had some pretty strong words of encouragement for them. He did,



Sarah 15:49

but he also doesn't let them off the hook. Okay? He's very real with them about the challenges ahead.



John 15:55

So like, what does he say? Well, he's



Sarah 15:57

pretty blunt about the possibility of persecution, okay, rejection, even death



John 16:01

for what they believe. Wow, talk about a buzzkill, right? It's like,



Sarah 16:05

go spread this message of love, but also be prepared for the haters, right? But even with those warnings, yeah, Jesus doesn't leave them feeling hopeless,



John 16:17

okay? So amidst the doom and gloom, right? What does he offer them?



Sarah 16:21

Hope? He reminds them that they've been given a gift, okay, something powerful to share with the world. Okay? And there's that line that always gets me. What's that Freely you have received, freely give? Okay? It's like he's saying, look, you've been given this incredible connection to something bigger than yourselves. Right? Now, go be that for others.



John 16:42

Don't keep it to yourself exactly. Share the wealth, okay, spread the love. But I'm sure even with all that, yeah, there were still moments of like, Wait, way, how do we actually do this? Oh, absolutely right. Because it's one thing to receive a gift, right? It's another thing entirely to know how to use it,



Sarah 16:59

especially when the world is telling you you're crazy for even having it in the first place,



John 17:03

 John 17:05
right? So how does Jesus equip them to deal with that?

 Sarah 17:06
He reminds them that they're not alone. Okay? He says, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age. Okay?

 John 17:12
I love that line because it speaks to that ever present nature of the Divine. It does, right? Like it's not about finding God in a particular time or place. It's about recognizing that connection that's always there. It's that inner kingdom we've been talking about exactly. So it's always accessible, always. Just have to remember to tap into it.

 Sarah 17:31
It's like having that direct line to the Divine 24/7 I like

 John 17:35
that, a 24/7 hotline to the Divine, exactly.

 Sarah 17:38
So no matter what challenges they face, they have that source of strength to draw from. Okay,

 John 17:44
so as we're wrapping up this deep dive, I think it's important to remember that even though this story took place 1000s of years ago, the lessons are still so relevant for us today.

 Sarah 17:57
Absolutely, they're timeless.

 John 17:59
I mean, we're all on this journey. We are of trying to figure out how to live out our own divine inheritance and how to navigate those challenges, right, and how to stay connected to that inner source of strength, exactly. Especially when the world feels chaotic,

S Sarah 18:11
it's easy to lose sight of that inner peace, it is. But I think

J John 18:15
that's the challenge that Jesus left us with, to stay connected, right, to keep cultivating that

S Sarah 18:20
inner kingdom and let it shine through in everything we do,

J John 18:23
because that's how we change the world, one heart at a time, one heart at a time. And on that note, yes, I think we've done our due diligence for today. I think so too. We've explored some deep concepts we have, we've wrestled with some tough questions, but that's what this is all about. It is. And I hope our listeners come away from this conversation, I hope so feeling inspired and maybe even a little challenged to

S Sarah 18:47
look inward, to connect with that divine spark and to let it guide their steps. Beautifully

J John 18:53
said. And on that note, thank you so much for joining me on this deep dive. Thank

S Sarah 18:58
you for having me. It's

J John 18:58
always a pleasure. It is. And thank you to our listeners for tuning in. Yes, thank

S Sarah 19:02
you. We'll

 John 19:03
see you next time for another deep dive. Looking

 Sarah 19:05
forward to it. You.