

Part 4, Paper 141, Beginning t...blic Work, Midwayer Commission

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SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

S Sarah 00:00

Ever feel like traditional religious views just sort of miss the mark, like there's got to be something deeper, more personal. That's kind of what we're diving into today. We're checking out the Urantia Book, specifically paper 141 it gives us really unique perspective on like the beginning of Jesus's public ministry. Now, just in case you haven't stumbled across it, the Urantia Book, it's this fascinating text popped up in the early 1900s and it claims to offer Well, deeper insights into Jesus's life, his teachings, you know. And let me tell you, it sparked some serious debate.

J John 00:32

Oh yeah, it definitely made you think big time.

S Sarah 00:34

But okay, enough background. Let's get to the good stuff this section. It's like a snapshot of Jesus stepping out from John the Baptist shadow, right? He's starting to spread his own message. So what makes this deep dive so interesting? We're going beyond those familiar stories, you know, we're gonna uncover some surprising insights about God, about unity, and what it really means to transform it's like getting a backstage pass to a history. Kind of cool, right? Totally. Our journey, it all starts in January 27 ad Jesus and His Apostles, apostles, they're ready to hit the road, leaving their home base to, like, spread the word. Talk about pressure. King Herod's on their tail. Crowds are practically chasing them down. But Jesus, he's all about this quieter, more strategic approach. Yeah, it's





John 01:16

a definite shift from John's style. John was more repent. The kingdom's coming, fire and brimstone. You know, totally different vibe. We often kind of gloss over this change, but it speaks volumes about how Jesus worked, always thinking ahead, always strategic,



Sarah 01:30

right? It's like he's carefully building a movement that's gonna totally change how people see God in faith. But before they even leave, there's this really poignant scene. Picture this, okay, Jesus, he's about to set off on this world changing mission, right? And he's found weeping. His family hasn't come to see him off. It's just, it's such a human moment, you know? It makes you realize he wasn't just this divine figure. He was a person with real feelings, dealing with very real emotions. Yeah, absolutely,



John 01:58

it's easy to forget that part, you know, this little detail. It adds so much depth to how we understand Jesus. It reminds us that even when he was about to do these incredible things, he still felt that same vulnerability, that same longing for connection, just like any of us. And maybe



Sarah 02:13

that's part of what makes his message so powerful, you think. So they head out try to keep things low key, and eventually they end up at the spot near Pella on the Jordan River. This isn't just any random location, though. It's loaded with meaning Exactly.



John 02:28

It's where John had been preaching and baptizing. Wow. Right back to the source. A lot of the people who were drawn to John's message, they were still trying to figure out where Jesus fit in. So this location, it was strategic familiar ground, a place where those folks, the ones hungry for John's message, might actually be open to hearing a new perspective from Jesus. It's like



Sarah 02:49

he's meeting them on their turf, you know, building on what they already know, instead of just dropping a whole new belief system on them. Yeah, totally. And speaking of meeting people where they are, this is where things get really interesting. Jesus starts unpacking his core teachings, right? And at the heart of it all, there's this radically different view of God, forget the vengeful judge, right? Jesus is talking about God as a loving father, yeah.



John 03:14

And it's mind blowing when you really think about the context, right? Back then, fear of God's wrath, that was the dominant theme, but

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Sarah 03:21

Jesus. He flips the script totally. He's turning it upside down,

J

John 03:25

he says, and I'm quoting here from the Urantia Book, I declare that the kingdom of heaven is the realization and acknowledgement of God's rule within the hearts of man. Wow. He's talking about an inner transformation, a deep personal relationship with a loving God.

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Sarah 03:39

That's beautiful. It's also kind of intimidating. You know, this whole idea of God's rule being inside us makes me wonder, does that mean we become like puppets? What about free will?

J

John 03:49

You know, you're hitting on a question that's puzzled theologians for centuries, right? But here's where I think the Urantia book's perspective is so insightful. Yeah, it's not about surrendering your will to some outside force. It's about choosing. It's about consciously choosing to align your will with God's will. Okay, think of it like, um, like, tuning an instrument, okay? You're not getting rid of the instrument's unique sound, right? You're just refining it. You're making it so it's in harmony with the orchestra.

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Sarah 04:19

Okay, yeah, that makes a lot more sense. It's not about becoming a robot. It's more about like a conscious surrender to something bigger, exactly, higher purpose, and

J

John 04:28

this idea of aligning your rule with Gods. It's not about erasing individuality either. In fact, the Urantia Book, it really emphasizes that spiritual unity. It doesn't have to mean uniformity of thought,

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Sarah 04:39

right? So it's not about everyone believing the exact same things. It's about recognizing our like, our shared connection to something bigger, even if we express it in different ways. It's like we can all be heading to the same place, but we're taking different paths to get there, right?



John 04:54

I love that analogy, yeah, and this emphasis on Unity over uniformity, it was. Huge, especially when you think about the diverse group of people that were drawn to Jesus's teachings. You're talking



Sarah 05:06

about those early disciples, right? Exactly. Many of them were followers of John the Baptist, so they were coming in with their own like their own baggage, their own interpretations, exactly.



John 05:15

And the Urantia Book describes how Jesus was constantly encouraging his followers to find common ground, to focus on that shared love for God, that desire to serve, even if they disagreed on some of the finer points of theology,



Sarah 05:29

which is, I mean, that's huge, even today, right? Oh, absolutely, in our world where everyone seems to be shouting their truth from the rooftops, it's kind of refreshing to consider a different approach. It



John 05:40

really is the Urantia book's perspective on spiritual unity. It's not just some feel good idea. It's a radical call for understanding and compassion in a world that's, let's be honest, desperately craving both. It's



Sarah 05:53

not about pretending we all believe the same things. It's about recognizing our shared humanity, that connection to something bigger, precisely,



John 05:59

and that's where the real transformation begins. It's about moving beyond rigid dogma and embracing a more, I don't know, a more expansive, a more inclusive vision of spirituality. And it's



Sarah 06:11

S Sarah 06:11

funny, because even as Jesus is emphasizing this unity, right, he's also kind of challenging the very structures of traditional religion. He's calling for something way more personal, more about internal change than outward rituals.

J John 06:24

Absolutely, the Urantia Book really highlights how much Jesus emphasized moving beyond empty rituals and dogma, right? He's not saying rituals are bad. It's that they're meaningless without a genuine connection of the heart.

S Sarah 06:36

He's all about putting compassion, personal transformation, front and center. It's like he's saying, don't just go through the motions. Let your faith transform you from the inside out.

J John 06:46

Yes, and this direct, heart centered approach, it ruffles some feathers back then, let me tell you, like that, the religious elite, the ones in power, they were not thrilled about this radical Rabbi shaking things up.

S Sarah 06:58

It's like he's saying, you can't just hide behind your rituals and your titles true faith. It's about how you live, how you treat other people, exactly,

J John 07:06

and that message, it still resonates with people today. Don't you think big time? It's about stripping away the pretense, the hierarchy, and getting to the core of what really matters.

S Sarah 07:17

And one of the most tangible expressions of that, at least from what I'm getting from the Urantia Book is his focus on healing. It's not just about preaching, it's about actively alleviating suffering in all its forms. You're

J John 07:29

right? The Urantia Book describes how Jesus healed people with physical ailments, sure, but he also addressed their emotional and spiritual suffering, right?

S Sarah 07:39
He was acknowledging the whole person,

J John 07:40
you recognize that true healing involved the whole person, body, mind and spirit.

S Sarah 07:45
It's like he's saying, I see you, I see your pain, and I'm here to help,

J John 07:50
whether it's a physical illness, a troubled mind or a spiritual crisis. He meets people where they are, and offers compassion and healing

S Sarah 07:58
Exactly. And what's so fascinating is that the Urantia Book suggests that Jesus's healing power. It wasn't just some supernatural gift, Okay, interesting. It was rooted in his deep connection to the divine, his unwavering faith and his profound empathy for others.

J John 08:12
So it's not that we should all expect miracles every time we pray for someone. It's more about cultivating that same love, that same compassion, that same connection to the divine within ourselves. You

S Sarah 08:22
got it? It's about recognizing that we all have the capacity to be instruments of healing in the world, to alleviate suffering however we can. Now, there's one aspect of the Urantia books account of Jesus's healing ministry that I find really intriguing. It's the way he addresses this concept of evil spirits. Yeah,

J John 08:42
that's one of the more, shall we say, debated aspects of the Urantia Book. But what I find so fascinating is how the book presents Jesus's approach. It's not just about casting out demons. It's about understanding their nature, where they come from, even their connection to what we

might call mental illness today. It's like

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Sarah 09:00

he's saying, look, there's more to this world than what we see. There are forces at play that we don't fully get.

J

John 09:05

Yeah, it's a perspective that might seem a little out there for some but the book is clear. Jesus took this unseen world seriously, and he didn't shy away from it at all. No, not at all. He didn't just dismiss people who were struggling mentally or emotionally as, you know, as possessed. He saw how complex their suffering was, and he offered compassion healing. It's like

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Sarah 09:25

he was saying, Hey, I get it. Things are rough, and there's stuff going on we don't understand, but I'm here to help you through it. It's

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John 09:32

powerful, isn't it? Even in the middle of our struggles, even when we feel totally lost and alone, there's this force for good, this Divine Presence always

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Sarah 09:41

there with us, a reminder that we're not alone in all this. Yeah, like a beacon of hope. And it gets even more interesting, the book suggests that as we evolve as humanity, you know, as we choose a more loving, more enlightened way of being, the influence of these negative forces, these evil spirits, it'll lessen so we're not

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John 09:59

just. Waiting around for someone to swoop in and fix everything right. We've got a part to play in making a better world, exactly aligning ourselves with that good stuff inside us, that potential for love, for compassion, understanding. When we do that, when we make the choice to come from that place of love, we help shift consciousness as a whole. We're all

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Sarah 10:18

part of this like cosmic dance. It's a beautiful thought. Our choices, the things we do, they ripple out and make a difference. We have



John 10:26

the power to change our own lives, sure, but also to be part of healing the world.



Sarah 10:30

So as we wrap up this deep dive into the Urantia book's take on Jesus's early ministry, it's more than just history, isn't it? It's a challenge, right,



John 10:39

to look at our own beliefs about God, about who we are, our place in it all. What does it



Sarah 10:45

really mean to follow Jesus's example? You know? How can we live out those teachings about love, compassion, unity in our own lives



John 10:52

and to remember that faith, that journey of transformation? It's not about blindly accepting rules or dogma. It's about nurturing that personal connection with something bigger. However, we understand that



Sarah 11:03

finding our own path, our own way of expressing our spirituality, but also recognizing we're all connected absolutely and approaching it all with curiosity, with humility, with an open heart, Couldn't have said it better myself, because at the end of the day, the Urantia Book reminds us that the most radical act of all is pretty simple. It's Love, love, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving the world with this fierce, unwavering compassion. And in



John 11:30

that love and that commitment to compassion, to unity, we find the real meaning of it all, the real path to healing and transformation. So



Sarah 11:37

I'm curious, as we close this chapter of our exploration, what really stuck with you from the Urantia Book, what made you rethink things or sparked your imagination? Because in these pages, in these ancient but surprisingly relevant words, there's this timeless wisdom, and it has

the power to change not just our beliefs, but our lives. And as we move forward, let's take that wisdom with us, that love, that hope, out into the world, creating those ripples of compassion, of understanding, of Unity wherever we go.