

Part 4, Paper 143, Going Throu...h Samaria, Midwayer Commission

📅 Sat, Oct 05, 2024 7:47AM ⌚ 8:54

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Samaria tensions, cultural minefield, spreading message, worshiping gladiators, Jesus' defense, divine love, self-mastery, inner transformation, no gossiping, retreat impact, Jacob's well, living water, divine nature, personal connection, striking step

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

S Sarah 00:00
All right, get this. We are diving deep, deep into the urentia book today. Oh yeah, and let me tell you, it's gonna get interesting. Vapor, 143, okay, going through Samaria,

J John 00:12
wow. Samaria,

S Sarah 00:15
yeah. Samaria, can you, I mean, just setting the scene here, yeah. 27 ad,

J John 00:19
yeah. Tensions are high. Tensions

S Sarah 00:21
are high. Jesus and the apostles, they're like, We gotta get out of Jerusalem. They're

J John 00:25
fleeing. They're going north. They're

- S** Sarah 00:27
out of there. But you can't just say Samaria and just like, move on. No. Like, that's the historical baggage between the Jews and the Samaritans. Intense,
- J** John 00:36
the minefield, right? It's a cultural and religious minefield, even for the apostles, that's got to be a big deal, absolutely big time. And you know, they're going into this area, and it's not just the Samaritans. They're encountering Greeks, Romans, and they're trying to spread this message. Okay? So
- S** Sarah 00:53
wait, wait, stop. You're an apostle. You've seen some things, right? Oh, yeah, you are fired up about this message, miracle, miracles. And then you try to explain this to someone who's like, worshipping gladiators. Totally
- J** John 01:07
different worldview.
- S** Sarah 01:08
What happens?
- J** John 01:10
Well, you said it, they're worshipping gladiators. They're worshipping emperors. They're all about power, ambition, worldly success. Yeah. And the apostles are coming in saying, Love, humility. That's the way to go. And they're like, what? It's time
- S** Sarah 01:23
the other cheek. Are you kidding? Yeah, you're
- J** John 01:24
gonna get crushed, right?

- S** Sarah 01:26
So how does Jesus respond to that? Does he like, tone it down? No, no, no. Does he try to make it fit in? He
- J** John 01:32
doubles down, really? Oh yeah. He gets fired up. He gives this passionate, powerful defense of his message and his followers.
- S** Sarah 01:39
Okay, I gotta know. What does that sound like? Give me some of that Jesus energy.
- J** John 01:43
He's talking about how his father rules the entire universe, not with force, but with love, divine love, unconditional love. But isn't
- S** Sarah 01:53
that? What everyone else is saying is weak? He says
- J** John 01:55
it's the most powerful force in existence. Okay, so
- S** Sarah 01:58
he's not just saying Love wins. He's saying something
- J** John 02:02
much bigger. He's reframing the whole idea of power. And what about the apostles? How are they handling this? They're lit they're feeling empowered. They're starting to see themselves as pioneers of this new way of life that takes guts, though, oh, immense courage, but also these incredible rewards. It's not about being weak. It's about tapping into a different kind of strength. It makes you think about
- S** Sarah 02:23
those early Christians who faced persecution. What gave them that kind of unwavering faith? It

J John 02:28
had to be the transformative power of Jesus's words. He took this idea of love and showed them how to live it out, even in the world that didn't understand as amazing as this new perspective was, though it wasn't always easy. Oh, tell me

S Sarah 02:42
about it. You think you've got something figured out, and bam, life throws a curveball. What

J John 02:46
happened this time? It was poor Andrew,

S Sarah 02:49
Andrew, what did he get himself into? Well,

J John 02:52
he was brave enough to point out what seemed like a contradiction in Jesus' teachings. Uh, oh, I

S Sarah 02:56
don't like the sound of that. What kind of contradiction are we talking about? It

J John 02:59
all circles back to self mastery, right? John the Baptist, he preached self denial, but Jesus, he seemed to be saying something different, something more. Okay, I'm

S Sarah 03:08
intrigued. It's like one is all about restriction, and the other is, I don't know, more expansive. Help me out here,

J John 03:15
exactly. It's a huge distinction. John's way was very much of his time. You know, suppress the

exactly. It's a huge distinction. John's way was very much of his time. You know, suppress the ego, deny your desires, like, really rigid. Yeah, it

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Sarah 03:23

kind of sounds like a recipe for a constant internal battle, right?

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John 03:26

But Jesus, he was advocating for a total transformation from within, fueled by the Spirit of Truth. Okay, I'm

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Sarah 03:33

starting to see the difference. So instead of a constant no to yourself, it's about tapping into a power that's already there, guiding you towards something higher. Yes,

J

John 03:41

it's not about struggling to be good enough on your own. It's about allowing that inner transformation to guide your actions.

S

Sarah 03:49

Easier said than done. Am I right? Even the apostles with Jesus, right there with them, they struggled at times, didn't they?

J

John 03:56

Oh, absolutely. These were people from all walks of life with their own baggage plus the pressure of their mission, the constant opposition, it's a lot, so

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Sarah 04:04

tensions were running a little high. Understatement of the century. How did Jesus handle that? Lay down the law. Give them a seminar on conflict resolution.

J

John 04:13

You might be surprised by this one. He took them on a retreat, a three day getaway to Mount sardiba

S Sarah 04:19
Wait a retreat. That's actually kind of brilliant, right? Sometimes

J John 04:22
you just need to change the scenery. But it gets even more interesting. He gave them a very specific rule for this retreat.

S Sarah 04:29
Oh, I do love a good rule. What was it? No gossiping. Even

J John 04:33
better, he told them no talking about their problems at all. Oh,

S Sarah 04:37
seriously, I can barely go an hour without complaining. How did that go over? Surprisingly

J John 04:41
well. The text tells us they came back totally different, refreshed, renewed, like they had literally shed their worries on that

S Sarah 04:47
mountain, a no complaining retreat, okay, first of all, genius. But also, how like did they all just sit in stony silence for three days straight? I need the details.

J John 04:58
It really is amazing. Like. Just the idea of choosing rest and reflection over, you know, hashing it out. It's such a powerful reminder that sometimes stepping away is the best way to move forward. It's like

S Sarah 05:11
that saying don't make any decisions when you're angry. Sometimes you just need some distance, right?



John 05:15

Exactly? And that's what that mountain retreat provided, distance, perspective, a chance to reconnect with something bigger than themselves,



Sarah 05:21

and it worked. They came back completely transformed. So where do we go from here? Back to those simmering tensions in Samaria? Oh



John 05:27

yeah, the plot thickens. Remember how the apostles went into Sychar to gather supplies? Well, Jesus



Sarah 05:33

took a break by Jacob's well, please tell me we're about to delve into that story. The woman at the well, it's one of my favorites. It's



John 05:40

a classic for a reason. So picture this. Jesus is sitting by the well, tired from the journey a woman approaches. We'll call her nolda. Nolda, I love that. Okay, go on. And here's where it gets really interesting for Jesus, a Jewish man, to even acknowledge a Samaritan woman, let alone speak to her. Totally taboo, like scandalous, exactly, but Jesus, being Jesus, throws convention right out the window. What does he do? He asks her for a drink of water. Such



Sarah 06:09

a simple act, but so profound in that context, right?



John 06:13

And all that you can imagine, she's taken aback. But Jesus uses this simple request to introduce one of the most powerful metaphors in all of Scripture, living water. Break



Sarah 06:22

it down for me, what does that even mean? Living Water,



John 06:25

it's about a different kind of first you see, it's about the longing for something more, something deeper than just quenching your physical thirst, the



Sarah 06:34

thirst for a life that's truly fulfilling, a life connected to something bigger.



John 06:38

Yes, and it's in this exchange that Jesus really sees her. He pierces through all of her defenses, all of the pain and regret she's carrying, and he offers her this profound truth. And



Sarah 06:49

then he says those incredible words, I who speak to you am he chills every single time. It's the first time he explicitly declares his divine nature, and he does it with someone considered an outsider, someone ostracized by her own community. The power of that moment, it's immense. It completely transforms her. She runs back to Sikar and tells everyone about this encounter, about the man who saw right through her and offered her living water.



John 07:14

It's like that one encounter sparked a chain reaction. It reminds me of that quote, be the change you wish to see in the world, or



Sarah 07:20

in this case, be the love, and it's contagious. So we've got the apostles learning about self mastery on this mountain retreat. We've got this incredible encounter at Jacob's well that highlights Jesus's compassion and his willingness to defy expectations, and it all culminates with Jesus teaching this large crowd in psycho it's a whirlwind of a story, and amidst all the excitement, the healings, the teachings, Jesus takes this moment to talk to his followers about prayer and worship, and what does he say? He emphasizes that it's not about rituals or empty words.



John 07:54

It's about a personal connection, a one on one conversation with the divine that's



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Sarah 07:58

so powerful. But it's not just about our own personal connection either, right? Absolutely

J

John 08:02

not. It's about taking that connection and letting it flow outwards into our actions, our interactions with the world. He's

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Sarah 08:09

talking about balancing contemplation with action, seriousness with joy.

J

John 08:14

It's about embracing the fullness of life, all of it, and just

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Sarah 08:18

when you think it can't get any deeper, he leaves them with that incredible image of worship as striking step with eternity. I get chills every time I hear those words, too. It's such a powerful image, right? It's like, how do we bring that sense of the eternal, the infinite, into our everyday lives? It's

J

John 08:35

a beautiful question, yeah, and one that I think we'll be exploring for the rest of our lives. It's

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Sarah 08:39

definitely given me a lot to think about.

J

John 08:43

That's it for our deep dives today, but we'd love to hear your thoughts. How do you strike step with eternity in your own life? Let us know in the comments below, until next time.