

Part 4, Paper 152, Events Lead...up to the, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's fame, Veronica's faith, Jairus's daughter, political climate, feeding miracle, crowd's reaction, Jesus's kingdom, spiritual growth, disciples' struggle, vision of Jesus, deeper conversations, parable of sower, receptive heart, true change, spiritual hunger

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah



John 00:00

It's funny when we talk about Jesus feeding the 5000 it's like everyone gets caught up in the miracle itself. It's such a visual thing, right? Like, who wouldn't want endless breadsticks at a restaurant? But for me, it's the why that's always stuck with me. What was actually going on that made this the moment for that to happen? Yeah, and the



Sarah 00:18

thing is, this whole miracle, it doesn't just come out of nowhere. It's like one piece of this much bigger story, this really pivotal moment for Jesus. And to really get it, we got to zoom out a bit look at what's leading up to it. You know, the context otherwise, it's easy to just see it as like some magic trick. And that's



John 00:35

what we're doing with this deep dive. We're really digging into the feeding of the 5000 using the Urantia Book paper, 152 Yeah, gives a really interesting perspective on what was happening behind the scenes. You know? Yeah, totally.



Sarah 00:47

So at this point in the story, Jesus's fame is like exploding. People are traveling for miles to see him, hoping to be healed, convinced he's the answer to everything. So



J John 00:59
he's become like this huge celebrity, right, someone who can do the impossible exactly

S Sarah 01:03
and right in the middle of all that, you have the story of Veronica. Most folks know her as the woman who touched Jesus's robe and was instantly healed,

J John 01:11
right? But the text we're looking at actually puts a different spin on that, right?

S Sarah 01:15
It's her faith that's emphasized, not the robe itself. Jesus actually stops everything and calls her out, makes sure she knows it was her belief that healed her, not just touching his clothes. Wow,

J John 01:25
that's a really important detail. He's trying to redirect people's attention away from the spectacle and towards something more significant, something inside them,

S Sarah 01:33
absolutely and then it happens again with Jairus daughter. Jairus was a big deal a synagogue ruler, so pretty high up, and his daughter is dying, and he begs Jesus to come heal her.

J John 01:43
And the text says Jesus knew she wasn't actually dead, but in a coma, right? Exactly,

S Sarah 01:47
he knew it, but he still goes through this whole process of waking her up. And it's like, again, why this focus on the method when everyone just wants the miracle, right?

J John 01:57
Like you'd think if you could just think someone back to health, you just do it. Yeah, it's like he's trying to teach them by going through the motions showing how important belief is. I'd be trying to figure out the message. You know, What's he trying to get across, totally.

S Sarah 02:09

And this is where the political climate comes in. Because people weren't just looking for a healer. They wanted a Messiah. They wanted someone to kick out the Romans, someone who'd make Israel powerful again. So there's

J John 02:21

this huge undercurrent of unrest, this desire for freedom, and then you have Jesus doing these incredible things. Talk about a recipe for sky high expectations, exactly,

S Sarah 02:31

and that is how we get to the feeding of the 5000 you've got this massive crowd, and they aren't just there for a possible healing. They're there because word is going around that maybe Jesus is finally gonna say he's the king. They've seen the healings, heard the teachings, and now they're hungry for more than just food. They're hungry for change, for someone to shake things up.

J John 02:50

And then right, when the anticipation is at its peak, the food runs out, 1000s of people miles from anywhere, with nothing to eat. You can practically feel the tension, right?

S Sarah 02:59

Yeah, talk about high stakes. It's the perfect setup for a miracle. And well, the text delivers big time. Jesus takes a little bit of food, like a few loaves and some fish, and boom, everyone's fed like

J John 03:10

something out of a movie. Food just appearing out of thin air. No wonder everyone went crazy, right?

S Sarah 03:15

But, and here's the thing, it's not just oh, thank you for the meal, kind of gratitude. It's way more intense, like a political rally, almost. People are shouting, make him king. They

J John 03:25



John 03:23

saw the miracle and were convinced right like, this is our leader, the guy's gonna fix everything. Exactly.



Sarah 03:29

This wasn't just about free sandwiches. It plays right into everything they want deep down, a king, someone strong who can kick out the Romans and make his real great again, they were ready to crown him right there on the spot. Can



John 03:42

you imagine being there, seeing a miracle, feeling that energy. It's like anything feels possible, totally



Sarah 03:48

and then Jesus does the last thing anyone expects. He stops everyone and says, My kingdom is not of this world. Whoa.



John 03:57

Talk about a reality check. He's making them think about His message rather than just getting swept up in the excitement. This isn't about armies and politics. It's something way bigger,



Sarah 04:06

exactly. And this is where the text gets really insightful, because after Jesus says that, most of the crowd just leaves,



John 04:13

they just walked away. Yeah, after all that, that's kind of wild.



Sarah 04:17

It is, right? But I think it says a lot about us as humans. We get caught up in the show, the quick fix, the easy answer, real change, real spiritual growth that takes way more. It means facing the stuff we want that won't actually make us happy. So



John 04:31

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they wanted a king who changed their lives, but Jesus was offering something that would change them. That's a lot harder to get excited about. You got

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Sarah 04:38

it. And even Jesus's closest followers, his disciples, they struggled with this, and there's no better example than Peter's vision of Jesus walking on the water, which

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John 04:48

the text says Peter always insisted did happen, even though it was a dream,

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Sarah 04:52

exactly. And that's super important, because even after Jesus says flat out, he's not about earthly power, he. Peter's still holding on to that hope. He wants to believe so badly that Jesus is going to be this conquering hero, like they couldn't

J

John 05:07

even wrap their heads around the kind of Kingdom Jesus was talking about. It was so different from anything they knew for

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Sarah 05:12

sure, and that disconnect, that tension between what they expected and what Jesus was actually about, well, it plays out through the rest of this story, especially when they all get back to Bethsaida.

J

John 05:22

So after everything that happened at the feeding, you know, Jesus saying his kingdom isn't some big political thing. Did everyone kind of get on the same page? Then

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Sarah 05:30

you'd think, right? But that's not quite how it goes down. Actually, the text makes it clear the crowds get smaller. After this, Jesus starts focusing more on these smaller, deeper conversations with his disciples, you almost

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John 05:41

have to wonder what they were even thinking at this point, like they've seen the healings, heard the teachings, but it's still not clicking completely, and

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Sarah 05:49

this is where Jesus really starts challenging them. He even uses their own scriptures. Points out how they're missing the point, reminds them that real faith isn't about miracles or worldly power. It's about something way deeper, way more personal. It's about wanting what God wants, having this deep, unshakable trust in something beyond the material world.

J

John 06:09

Yeah, that feels like a really big theme in the text. Real change doesn't come from some outside force, but from something shifting inside you.

S

Sarah 06:16

Yeah, absolutely. It's like that parable of the sower that pops up around. Now in the text, the seeds are the Word of God, the message Jesus is sharing, right? But not all soil is made equal. Some of it's Rocky. Some has thorns, and nothing really takes root. It's

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John 06:32

a cool metaphor. It's not enough to just hear it, to see the show. You've got to cultivate that space within yourself so the message can grow

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Sarah 06:39

exactly a receptive heart, fertile ground for spiritual growth, you know, and that often means facing the things we cling to that are holding us back. This whole deep

J

John 06:49

dive has really got me thinking about that, actually, but the stuff we're holding onto without even realizing it. What are we really hungry for? Is it something the world can even give us, or is it something more that require seeing ourselves in everything differently,

S

Sarah 07:02

big questions, right? And ones, I think we're all invited to wrestle with the feeding of the 5000 it's not just about a miracle. It's about a choice. Do we stick with the familiar, wanting, the quick fix, the easy answer, or do we open ourselves up to a totally different way of being, one

that starts with



John 07:19

us? Definitely something to chew on. Thanks for taking this deep dive with us until next time.