

Part 4, Paper 155, Fleeing Thr...n Galilee, Midwayer Commission

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religious devotion, Urantia Book, Jesus's teachings, primitive religion, religion of civilization, religion of Revelation, personal experience, spiritual makeover, fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

J John 00:00

All right, time to dive right in, folks, today's deep dive, yeah, we're talking religious devotion, okay, as described in the Urantia Book, right? Specifically, yeah, one section about Jesus's teachings, okay, during his travels through Galilee and Phoenicia. You ready for this? Absolutely.

S Sarah 00:16

This is some pretty interesting stuff. This is not your average Sunday School material. Oh, that's

J John 00:21

what I like to eat. So paint the scene for me. What makes this section of the book so unique?

S Sarah 00:27

All right? So picture this, okay. You are with Jesus and his followers. Warm afternoon, walking near Liz. Everyone's taking a break, eating lunch, okay? And then Jesus just launches into this super deep conversation about the very nature of religion.

J John 00:44

Wow. Talk about food for thought. Okay, so Jesus is just dropping truth bombs over hummus and PETA, man, I need to step up my lunch game spoken with a chuckle. But seriously, what's he saving? Well. he

S Sarah 00:56
starts by breaking down religious devotion into three forms. Okay, the first primitive religion.

J John 01:03
Primitive religion. Okay, I'm picturing like, cave paintings, maybe a rain dance or two, exactly.

S Sarah 01:09
It's that very, very early human urge to explain what they can't explain, right? They're afraid of natural forces, storms, eclipses, you name it. Yeah, it's all about survival superstitions trying to appease these mysterious powers. Yeah,

J John 01:25
now that makes sense. I mean, they didn't have science to explain any of this stuff, right? So it's like finding meaning in the supernatural, exactly.

S Sarah 01:31
And what's interesting is the Urantia Book, it doesn't just dismiss this. It acknowledges that, you know what, even today, that instinct to find meaning in the unknown. It's part of what makes us human. It's still there.

J John 01:43
Yeah. Okay, so what comes next on this religious evolution chart?

S Sarah 01:47
So next Jesus, he introduces the religion of civilization, okay? And this, this is where things get even more interesting. Okay, so we're moving beyond just fear right now. It's about the mind, okay? Organized religion, you got your doctrines, your intellectual theology, all those carefully constructed belief systems,

J John 02:07
right? So less sacrificing goats and more like debating interpretations of ancient texts, precisely spoken with a chuckle.

S Sarah 02:15

But the text suggests that even though this is progress, it can also be a trap. Oh, how so we can get so wrapped up, you know, in the rules, the dogma, the intellectual gymnastics of it all, that we might lose sight of the actual experience of faith. Okay,

J John 02:31

I'm sensing a butt coming here. There's got to be more to it than just following the rules 100% that

S Sarah 02:38

is where Jesus introduces his third form true religion, or as he calls it, the religion of Revelation. Religion of Revelation. And this is where things get really, really interesting, okay, religion

J John 02:50

of Revelation. Yeah, it sounds like we're about to unlock, like a secret level of faith here, spoken

S Sarah 02:56

with a chuckle, right? What makes this different? So this is

J John 02:59

really where the Urantia Book sets itself apart. This isn't about fear based rituals or just blindly following doctrines, okay, this is about a direct personal experience with the divine, okay, a revelation that comes from within.

S Sarah 03:13

So it's less about like what you believe, and more about

J John 03:17

like how you actually connect Yes, with something beyond yourself.

S Sarah 03:21

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Yes, exactly. And the text really emphasizes this, this kind of faith. It's not passive, okay, it's not something that just happens to you, right? It requires active, seeking, okay, questioning, a willingness to be transformed by that experience. Transformed

J John 03:38

You mean, like a spiritual makeover. Spiritual makeover. Yeah, laugh, but no,

S Sarah 03:42

really, the text uses this really powerful image of being born again, okay, not literally, of course, right, but in the sense of, like undergoing a fundamental shift in perspective, right? It's about opening yourself up to a new way of seeing the world and your place in it.

J John 04:01

Okay, that makes sense. But I have to be honest, it also sounds a little intimidating. Yeah, like, what if I'm not sure I'm cut out for this whole spiritual awakening thing? Well, and that's

S Sarah 04:11

the beauty of it, though. Okay, the Urantia Book really emphasizes like, this journey is unique to each individual. Okay, there's no one size fits all approach here.

J John 04:21

So there's no like spiritual boot camp I have to go to, right? No, meditation retreat required. No,

S Sarah 04:27

not necessarily. It's more about cultivating the sense of openness curiosity in your everyday life. Okay? It's about paying attention to those moments of awe and wonder, yeah, those little glimpses of something greater than yourself. Yeah,

J John 04:42

I like that. That's good. Yeah. It's less about forcing it. It's more about being present and receptive. But the text did mention something about this path being more demanding. Yes, what did it mean by that?

S Sarah 04:53

Yeah, so Jesus is very clear about this, okay, choosing the religion of Revelation. Yeah. Yeah, it's not always easy, right? It takes courage to question your beliefs, to challenge your assumptions, right, to be open to new possibilities, yeah, even if they make you uncomfortable. So

J John 05:11

it's not for the faint of heart. You could say that it requires a certain level of self awareness, okay, and willingness to confront your own biases, right? But that is the text suggests, yeah, that's where the real growth happens. Okay? It's in those moments where you're wrestling with doubt, uncertainty. Yeah, that's where we discover a deeper, more authentic faith.

S Sarah 05:37

So this religion of revelation sounds intense, yeah, but like, what's the payoff? What does this even look like in practice? Well, the Urantia Book actually gets pretty specific here. Okay? It lays out what it calls the fruits of the Spirit. Fruits of the Spirit. Yeah, these aren't literal fruits, obviously, right, but it's more like qualities, okay, that should like blossom in the life of someone who is truly connected to the divine.

J John 06:02

Okay, so give me the rundown. What qualities are we talking about here. Think,

S Sarah 06:07

love, joy, peace, okay, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, okay, and self control.

J John 06:18

So it's about it's not just talking the talk, right? It's walking the walk. Exactly. Actions speak louder than words. Yes,

S Sarah 06:25

the Urantia Book really emphasizes that true faith. It's not passive. It's about actively embodying these virtues in your everyday

J John 06:34

life. It's like Gandhi said, Be the change you want to see in the world. There you go. Right? It's about actually aligning your actions with your beliefs. Yeah, however hard it gets,

- S** Sarah 06:44
and the text even goes further, suggesting your entire life should become like a testament to your faith. Okay, it's about staking your existence. Whoa, staking
- J** John 06:54
your existence. Okay, what does that even mean? It's about living
- S** Sarah 06:57
with this sense of purpose, this this deep conviction that your life has meaning and value beyond just like the material world. It's about making choices that reflect those values, even when they're hard, even when they're unpopular. It's about, you know, living with integrity, compassion, like a commitment to something bigger than yourself. So it's
- J** John 07:21
not about blindly following the rules or even just like seeking comfort in Dogma. It's about living a life of purpose. Yeah? That reflects what you actually believe.
- S** Sarah 07:31
Yes. And the Urantia Book argues that this kind of faith, yeah, this willingness to stake your existence on something more, can be this powerful force for good, right? It's a call to action, to live a life of meaning, you know, yeah, to inspire others to do the same.
- J** John 07:49
Wow. It really makes you think about the impact we could all have if we, like, took that
- S** Sarah 07:53
approach, right? It really does. It gives you a lot to think about. It does, yeah. Really
- J** John 07:56
challenges us to think about what we value, yeah, and how we're reflecting that yes, in our everyday life.

S

Sarah 08:04

And that's the beauty of a deep dive like this, right? We've just scratched the surface of this concept. But hopefully this gives you something to like, chew on, right? Something to inspire you, yeah, to really explore your own beliefs and how they shape your life. Absolutely,

J

John 08:18

this has been a great journey, through the pages of the Urantia Book. Yeah, it's really fascinating stuff, really exploring this unique take on religious devotion. And remember, everybody, this is just a starting point. Keep asking those questions, keep seeking and keep diving deep into those ideas that challenge and inspire you until next time you.