

Part 4, Paper 157, At Caesarea...Phillippi, Midwayer Commission

📅 Sat, Oct 05, 2024 8:49PM ⌚ 8:55

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's ministry, Pharisees' interference, temple taxes, divine intervention, spiritual kingdom, private teachings, Peter's confession, spiritual growth, leadership service, spiritual rebirth, transformation of consciousness, divine alignment, journey of faith, inner transformation, spiritual principles

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

- J

John 00:00

Okay, so get this, we're diving into some like hidden gems from Jesus life today. Hidden Gems, yeah, like those stories from the Urantia Book that you don't always hear in Sunday school. We're talking paper 157 this time. Ah, interesting choice, right? It's all about this crucial turning point in his ministry. But starts with these really relatable moments, right?
- S

Sarah 00:20

Right? It's not just jumping into the miraculous stuff. It's showing us the human side of Jesus too. Exactly
- J

John 00:26

like, remember how the Pharisees were always on his tail. There's this almost awkward encounter at zebedees Bow shop,
- S

Sarah 00:32

oh yeah, where Jesus is supposed to meet his family, yeah, and
- J

John 00:36

the Pharisees show up at Mary's house, messing up the whole plan.

- S** Sarah 00:38
You can totally picture that kind of frantic energy, like he's supposed to be here. Where is he?
Makes
- J** John 00:43
you wonder if Mary had a secret signal or something. Pharisees are here a board mission, right,
- S** Sarah 00:48
like a first century bat signal or something, exactly.
- J** John 00:50
But seriously, those little details make the whole story come alive Absolutely.
- S** Sarah 00:54
They remind us that Jesus wasn't operating in a vacuum. This was a real place and time with real tensions and
- J** John 01:02
real families, real relationships, trying to make things work. So anyway, back to the story the Urantia Book then gets into this interesting situation with temple taxes. Yeah, that whole thing was kind of a big deal back then. Yeah. Wasn't it like a mandatory thing for Jewish males, right?
- S** Sarah 01:17
But sometimes religious leaders could get exemptions. Ah,
- J** John 01:21
so what happens? Jesus pulls out his get out of tax free card. Not
- S** Sarah 01:25
quite. The book says that he and his disciples get approached by a tax collector and they're short on funds.

J John 01:30
Oh, no, awkward. So what do they do? Pass the Hat. Well, that's

S Sarah 01:34
where things get a little How do I put this intriguing? Oh,

J John 01:39
you're killing me here. Spit it

S Sarah 01:40
out. Okay, okay, so the book says that out of seemingly nowhere, a messenger arrives with baskets overflowing with fish.

J John 01:49
We a messenger, like a divine delivery guy.

S Sarah 01:53
That's how it's presented in the book, okay, I'm

J John 01:55
hooked. What happens next?

S Sarah 01:56
They sell the fish, pay the tax, and everyone's left wondering what just went down.

J John 02:02
I mean, talk about divine intervention, or maybe just really good timing. It makes you think about how stories evolve over

—

S Sarah 02:09
time, right? Absolutely, it's like that whole thing about the coin and the fish's mouth.

J John 02:13
You think that came from something like this, a simple fishing story that got blown out of proportion. Who

S Sarah 02:17
knows. But it's interesting to consider how oral traditions and religious narratives can sometimes blend together totally.

J John 02:24
And the Urantia Book actually encourages that kind of critical thinking. It

S Sarah 02:27
does. It reminds us to be mindful of how stories can change over time, even with the best of intentions, which I

J John 02:33
think is a perfect segue to our next topic, Jesus's encounters with the Pharisees. Oh

S Sarah 02:38
yeah, get ready for some fireworks, because things are about to get interesting.

J John 02:42
So we're leaving those big public showdowns and getting into those more private moments with the disciples. This is where it gets really interesting, right? Like, What was Jesus teaching them behind closed doors? Well, the

S Sarah 02:53
Urantia Book suggests that he started revealing more about the real nature of the kingdom of God, which



John 02:59

I'm guessing wasn't what most people were expecting back then, not even close. They



Sarah 03:03

were looking for a military leader, someone to kick out. The Romans establish a physical kingdom, right?



John 03:08

It was a very politically charged time. So how does Jesus navigate that? You know, while also trying to introduce this whole new spiritual understanding, that's where



Sarah 03:18

those parables come in, he uses these vivid stories to sneak in some really deep truths. Ah.



John 03:24

So instead of saying, Hey guys, forget about conquering armies and political power, he's like, imagine a tiny mustard seed growing into this massive tree. That's what the kingdom of God is like, exactly.



Sarah 03:37

It's not about outward displays of force. It's about this inner transformation that spreads out from within.



John 03:43

I like that. It's like, don't underestimate the power of small beginnings, right? And



Sarah 03:47

he goes on to explain that the kingdom of God isn't confined by borders or political systems. It's about living by these spiritual principles, like love, compassion, forgiveness, the



John 03:58

stuff that actually changes the world from the inside out exactly. But

 Sarah 04:01

here's the thing, even as he's painting this picture of a spiritual kingdom, he's also warning his disciples that it's not going to be easy. Yeah, there's that whole taking up your cross thing, right? And in these private teachings, he's really drilling down on that. He's telling them to watch out for hypocrisy, to stay true to themselves, even when things get tough,

 John 04:19

it's like he knows they're about to face some serious tests of faith, absolutely.

 Sarah 04:23

And all of this leads us to that pivotal moment at Caesarea Philippi,

 John 04:28

you know the one? Oh yeah, the big Who do you say that I

 Sarah 04:31

am? That's the one. Imagine this Jesus and his disciples. They're away from the crowds surrounded by this stunning natural beauty scene from a movie, right? And in that setting, he asks that question that's echoed through history, who you say that I am? And of course, it's Peter, always the bold one who steps up and says, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Mic drop moment, right

 04:52

there, right?

 Sarah 04:53

But the Urantia Book makes it clear that this isn't just some random guess on Peter's part. It's presented as a Gen. You in Revelation, like God, the Father Himself, is confirming who Jesus is. So

 John 05:04

Peter's basically channeling the divine at that point, in a way,

- S** Sarah 05:08
yes, and the book suggests that it's those private teachings that have led Peter to this understanding. He's starting to grasp the true nature of Jesus's identity, his mission. It's
- J** John 05:18
a huge turning point for the disciples, they've gone from seeing him as a wise teacher to recognizing Him as something far greater.
- S** Sarah 05:26
It's like the scales have fallen from their eyes. But here's where the Urantia Book gets even more interesting. It suggests that even after this incredible declaration, they still don't fully get it.
- J** John 05:36
Wait, really, yeah, even after Peter's big confession, even then
- S** Sarah 05:40
they're still grappling with the implications of Jesus's divinity. So they're human, exactly, and that's a key theme that the Urantia Book keeps coming back to spiritual understanding. It's not a one and done deal. It's a journey, a process of growth and discovery.
- J** John 05:56
You're never really done learning and evolving, right? And I think that's true for
- S** Sarah 05:59
us today, too. We're all on this journey of trying to understand the divine, to figure out what it means for our lives.
- J** John 06:06
So true. So what happens next in this story? How does Jesus handle the disciples? You know, still kind of limited understanding, so they're starting to get it, but they don't totally get it. What happens next?

S

Sarah 06:19

Well, Jesus, he starts to lay it out there more explicitly, like spelling it out for them, kind of but he also starts preparing them for a future without him physically there. It's like

J

John 06:27

that point in a movie where things start moving really fast, right? Like no more holding back. So what kind of teachings are we talking about here? Well, there's

S

Sarah 06:34

this really powerful passage where he talks about building a house on a rock versus on sand. Ah, the classic metaphor, right? But the way he uses it, it's about more than just physical foundations. It's about building your life on something solid, on

J

John 06:47

spiritual principles, yeah, on faith that can weather any storm Exactly.

S

Sarah 06:50

And he connects it to action too.

J

John 06:53

It's one thing to talk the talk because of walk the walk Exactly.

S

Sarah 06:56

And then there's that whole thing about service. Oh, yeah,

J

John 06:59

the whoever wants to be great must be a servant. Bit.

S

Sarah 07:03

It's such a radical concept, even today,

J John 07:05
right? We're so used to associating leadership with power and authority, but

S Sarah 07:09
Jesus flips that on its head. He's saying true leadership is about humility, about putting others

J John 07:15
first, about using your power to lift people up, not lord it over them,

S Sarah 07:19
exactly. And the Urantia Book takes it a step further, suggesting that Jesus is also talking about serving God.

J John 07:25
So it's not just about how we treat each other, but also about aligning ourselves with

S Sarah 07:30
a higher purpose, surrendering to the Father's will,

J John 07:33
letting go of that ego driven need for control. That's a tough one,

S Sarah 07:37
it is, but that's where that whole concept of spiritual rebirth comes in, oh yeah, the

J John 07:41
born again thing, right?

S Sarah 07:42
But the Urantia Book makes it clear that Jesus isn't talking about some kind of literal rebirth. It's about a transformation of consciousness like

about a transformation of consciousness, like



John 07:52

hitting the reset button on your whole way of thinking and being



Sarah 07:54

exactly, letting go of old patterns and beliefs that no longer serve you,



John 07:59

shedding that old skin, stepping into a new way of being, a way of being



Sarah 08:02

that's rooted in love, compassion, connection with the Divine. It's



John 08:07

a powerful message, and it feels super relevant to what a lot of people are going through these days.



Sarah 08:11

Totally. So as we wrap up this deep dive, what's the key takeaway here?



John 08:17

Yeah, what can we take from the Urantia book's perspective on these pivotal moments in Jesus's life.



Sarah 08:23

Well, I think it reminds us that spiritual growth is a journey, not a destination.



John 08:28

It's not about achieving some kind of perfect faith overnight.

S

Sarah 08:31

It's about showing up day after day, asking questions, wrestling with doubts,

J

John 08:37

being open to new ways of seeing things, even when it's uncomfortable, embracing the messiness of it all and trusting that through that process, we're becoming more aligned with our true selves and with the divine, beautifully said, and with that, we'll leave you to ponder these ideas

S

Sarah 08:52

until next time. Keep diving deep.