

Part 4, Paper 168, The Resurre...f Lazarus, Midwayer Commission

📅 Sat, Oct 05, 2024 11:20PM ⌚ 8:44

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Lazarus resurrection, Urantia Book, Bethany setting, wealthy family, Mary and Martha, cultural context, Jewish mourning, Jesus arrival, emotional tension, celestial beings, 12 seconds, grave clothes, soul detained, faith importance, cosmic picture

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

- S

Sarah 00:00

All right, so today we are diving into a story that's pretty well known, I think, but we're gonna uncover some things about the resurrection of Lazarus that I bet you've never heard before.
- J

John 00:10

Yeah, we're going way beyond the kind of traditional biblical account, you know, with the Urantia Book, and we're gonna look at it with fresh eyes.
- S

Sarah 00:18

The Urantia Book, I have to admit, that is not something I'm super familiar with. So what is it about this text that makes it unique when we're looking at the Lazarus story,
- J

John 00:28

yeah, you know, think about the Urantia Book as this gigantic cosmic drama, and the Lazarus story is like one little act in this huge play. So we're getting like, context and backstory and motivations for things that you would just not believe. Okay,
- S

Sarah 00:41

so you've definitely piqued my interest there. All right, so let's set the scene. We're in Bethany, right? We



John 00:45

are in Bethany, yeah, yeah, but forget that little you know, kind of quaint village vibe. The Urantia Book gives us a very different view of Lazarus and his family. They were wealthy. First of all, they were landowners. They even had a private tune, which, back then, that was a big deal. Oh, okay,



Sarah 01:03

so I always picture them as just kind of like simple folks. So that really changes things. It does,



John 01:07

yeah, it completely changes the way that their relationship with Jesus is framed and the whole social dynamic. So now imagine the two sisters, right? Mary and Martha, dealing with this grease, but in very different ways. Okay, Mary is just utterly heartbroken, overcome with emotion. But Martha is kind of an interesting character, because she's devastated, obviously, but she's got this tenacious hope, and she's the one who sends word to Jesus in the first place. Oh, interesting, because she believes that he can do something about it. Yeah,



Sarah 01:34

that makes sense. I mean, their contrasting personalities would just make that whole situation even more intense? Oh,



John 01:41

absolutely. And to even really understand how deep their hope and despair was, we have to understand the cultural context, right? Because Jewish mourning customs were very, very serious business, and especially the third and fourth days after death were very pivotal. What was so important about those days was believed that by the fourth day the soul would have actually departed from the body after kind of lingering around for a while and gone on to the afterlife. So yeah, hope would pretty much vanished by that point, at least in the earthly sense. Yeah,



Sarah 02:09

so every hour that passed, every day must have just been unbearable. Oh, absolutely.



John 02:13

The clock is ticking and their brother is gone, and they're just desperately hoping that Jesus will show up in time. Okay.



Sarah 02:20

and this is where things get really interesting, because Jesus, he's not exactly known for always being on time.



John 02:28

That is an understatement. When Jesus finally gets to phillik Bethany, Lazarus has been dead for four days. Four



02:34

days, the stakes just got real. Yeah, stay for



John 02:38

Lazarus is gone, and Jesus rolls into town, you know, and there's this palpable sense of, like, anticipation, but also probably a bit of judgment. Oh, totally,



Sarah 02:47

right. Like, where you've been, man, we sent you a message. But what does the Urantia Book say about this arrival? There's got to be more to it than just like everyone's happy to see Jesus, the



John 02:56

Urantia Book really gets into the psychology of the moment, especially when it comes to Jesus, because on the surface, everybody's glad he's there. Glad he's there. But also, I think there's this feeling of, well, we thought you were gonna heal him before he died, all right, like, Oh, here's



Sarah 03:07

the healer. What took so long, exactly.



John 03:09

So there's this weird kind of awkward tension, almost when Jesus shows up, and those little details that the Urantia Book picks up on that are so fascinating, okay, give me an example, like, look at how Martha reacts when she hears Jesus has come. She runs out to meet him, but

like, look at how Martha reacts when she hears Jesus has come. She runs out to meet him, but Mary stays home. You know, classic Martha, right? Yeah, always the one taking charge. Oh

S

Sarah 03:30

yeah, Martha's the one in the kitchen making sure everybody's fed While Mary's off writing poetry. You know,

J

John 03:34

yes, exactly. But listen to how Martha greets Jesus. Her first words to him, or like, Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Oh, it's like

S

Sarah 03:43

a punch to the gut, right? Not even like angry, but definitely a we all know you could have prevented this, exactly.

J

John 03:48

And what does Jesus say? He says, Your brother will rise again, but he doesn't say how,

S

Sarah 03:54

oh, man, talk about leaving people hanging, right?

J

John 03:56

And this is where it gets even more intense, because Jesus asks for Mary, and when she comes to him, she falls at his feet and basically repeats what Martha said. And it's like the weight of their grief, the sound of the mourners, it all gets to him, and he weeps,

S

Sarah 04:10

wait, hold on. Jesus starts crying for someone he supposedly knows he can bring back to life. That's kind of strange, right? It

J

John 04:17

is strange, and it's a detail that in the traditional biblical account is kind of glossed over, yeah, but the Urantia Book has this really interesting take on it, because, yes, on one level, it's empathy for Mary and Martha, but there's also this sense of, like, frustration with the mourners.

You know, the people who are just putting on

S

Sarah 04:36

a show? Uh, yeah, you know the ones at the funeral that are making sure everybody sees them crying exactly,

J

John 04:41

and it's like Jesus sees right through that. But the Urantia Book suggests there's something even deeper going on here. Okay, you gotta tell me more. Okay, so according to the Urantia Book, Jesus might actually be grappling with the implications of what he's about to do, because raising Lazarus from the dead, this isn't just some personal. Favor. It's a huge deal. Yeah, this

S

Sarah 05:01

is gonna have massive repercussions. Oh, absolutely. This is gonna

J

John 05:04

rock their world. And here's the real kicker. The Urantia Book tells us that celestial beings were already in position ready to act before Lazarus even died.

S

Sarah 05:14

Wait, so this wasn't just a spur the moment miracle. This was planned. That's

J

John 05:19

what it sounds like, and it really makes you rethink the whole timeline. Because why would Jesus wait if he knew Lazarus was sick? It's like he wanted people to think, well, it's too late now. And that's where we get into some really wild territory, because what happens next really challenges everything we think we know about life and death and the soul. Okay,

S

Sarah 05:36

Lay it on me. All right, so Lazarus is dead. Jesus is there. Everybody's like, what's gonna happen? This is where it all goes down, right?

J

John 05:44

And this is where the Urantia Book throws in something you don't expect. Okay, are you ready

for this? The actual resurrection only takes 12 seconds. Oh,

S

Sarah 05:52

second. So there's no, like, big mystical ritual or anything,

J

John 05:55

nope, 12 seconds. It's like flipping a switch. And I think that's really important, because it emphasizes the power behind what's happening. This isn't some parlor trick, it's something way beyond that. Okay,

S

Sarah 06:07

so set the scene for me. We're at the tomb. What's going on? Okay? So

J

John 06:11

you've got Jesus, Mary and Martha, obviously surrounded by the disciples. Onlookers broke some skeptics in the back, muttering to themselves, and the atmosphere is, like, super thick with anticipation and fear, and, you know, probably a little bit of that. Yeah, let's

S

Sarah 06:25

be real. Lazarus has been dead for days. And

J

John 06:27

Martha, ever practical, Martha brings this up to Jesus. She says, Lord, by this time, there will be an odor for he's been dead four days. Like, can you imagine? Oh,

S

Sarah 06:38

man, talk about awkward. But also, she's not wrong. It just shows you how real this whole thing was,

J

John 06:43

exactly. But Jesus gently reminds her about the importance of faith. And then he turns toward the tomb, and he speaks to Lazarus directly, like he's not even talking to a dead person. He says, Lazarus, come out,

S Sarah 06:54
and then what happens? Does lightning strike the Earth as the sky open up? Nope. 12

J John 06:58
seconds later, Lazarus walks out of the tomb wrapped in grave clothes, face covered, but alive.

S Sarah 07:03
I can't even imagine witnessing that like all your doubts would just vanish. And the

J John 07:07
Urantia Book talks about how people reacted. The apostles were apparently pretty calm. They'd seen Jesus do some wild stuff, but everyone else was terrified.

S Sarah 07:15
Well, yeah, I mean, you're seeing something that's supposed to be impossible. It makes you rethink everything, and

J John 07:21
that's where the Urantia Book takes it a step further, because it doesn't just say, Oh, it was a miracle. It actually explains that Lazarus soul hadn't gone anywhere. It was being detained by these celestial beings.

S Sarah 07:34
So it was like a layover. His soul was on hold,

J John 07:37
exactly. And when Jesus spoke the word Lazarus thought adjuster, which is what the Urantia Book calls, that little spark of God within each of us was told to go back to his body, and that's what brought him back to life. Okay,

S Sarah 07:49
.....

so Lazarus is back. People are freaking out. What about Lazarus? What's his experience?

J John 07:52

That's another wild detail from the Urantia Book. Lazarus had no memory of those four days. It was like waking up from a dreamless sleep.

S Sarah 07:59

So no Pearly Gates, no chats with angels, nope, nothing.

J John 08:04

Which I think makes this whole story even more profound, because it forces us to confront just how much we don't know about life and death and what happens in between.

S Sarah 08:14

It's mind blowing, but also kind of hopeful, you know, like, even if we don't understand it, there's something incredible happening behind the scenes. I

J John 08:21

think that's what makes the Urantia books take on Lazarus so fascinating. It's not just about one miracle, it's a glimpse into a much bigger cosmic picture that we're all a part of.

S Sarah 08:31

Well, this whole deep dive has been incredible. I feel like I have a completely new understanding of this story.

J John 08:36

That's what it's all about, right? Always learning and exploring absolutely well. Thank

S Sarah 08:40

you so much for taking this journey with me, and until next time, keep on exploring you.