

Part 4, Paper 169, Last Teachi... at Pella, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus' teachings, God's pursuit, relatable God, lost son parable, active God, spiritual wealth, God as Father, divine spark, inner journey, love compassion, forgiveness humility, divine presence, soul's journey, living faith, personal experience

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

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Sarah 00:00

Ever feel like you know this traditional ideas of God like a distant king, they just don't quite resonate like maybe there's something more. Well, get this. We're diving deep into the Urantia books take on God, specifically focusing on Jesus' teachings during his last week at Pella. Oh, fascinating, right. It's an electric time. Think about it. News of Lazarus resurrection is spreading like wildfire, and Jesus uses these final teachings to really challenge those conventional views and offer a much more, you know, relatable, personal understanding of God.
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John 00:37

And of course, you can't forget the Pharisees. Oh, right.
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Sarah 00:40

Talk about high stakes. Yeah, absolutely. This is intense stuff, yeah, but one of the most revolutionary concepts Jesus presents, it's this whole idea of a God who actually seeks us out, which, like, completely flips the script right, right on that idea that we have to earn our way through, you know, repentance and all that right to be accepted. It's
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John 00:59

about God's Relentless Pursuit just pure, boundless love driving everything. It's
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Sarah 01:05

— beautifully shown. Yeah, oh, go ahead. Oh, she's

J John 01:07

gonna say the parable of the lost son, that's where it really shines through. Yes, Jesus deliberately contrasts the sun. Right? Who makes the intentional choice to leave right? With like a sheep going astray. Oh,

S Sarah 01:20

that's a good point, not

J John 01:22

on purpose, yeah. And that message is so clear, it's not about our actions, but about a father waiting ready to welcome us back, no matter what, no matter what.

S Sarah 01:32

And it's not just a one time thing, either, right? The lost sheep, the lost coin. These stories, they all emphasize God's like dedication to finding every single lost soul.

J John 01:42

He's actively searching. It's not passive, yeah,

S Sarah 01:45

it's active. It paints this incredibly beautiful picture of a God who's not just, you know, waiting around. He's out there searching

J John 01:54

Exactly. And it's interesting, isn't it, how Jesus uses these everyday things, oh yeah, experiences we can all relate to, to make these huge, heavenly concepts understandable. Totally like, take the shrewd steward, for instance. Yeah, this parable, it always throws me for a loop, because you've got this steward. He's being dishonest, right, right, manipulating his master's accounts. Yeah, for his benefit, by the way, not cool and

S Sarah 02:21

vet. And yet there's this, this admiration for his cleverness. It's like, wow, he's resourceful

yet. And yet, there's this, this admiration for his cleverness. It's like, wow, he's resourceful.

J John 02:26

It's true. Like you almost root for him, even though you know he's in the wrong Exactly.

S Sarah 02:30

And Jesus uses that, that seemingly backwards situation, to make a huge point. Okay,

J John 02:36

I'm listening, if we can be so strategic, so on top of things, when it comes to worldly stuff, imagine the focus we should have on spiritual riches.

S Sarah 02:46

It's like he's saying, Come on, guys, you're smart enough for this exactly. So we're like that steward, right? We get caught up in worldly success, but Jesus is nudging us a little more than a nudge, okay? Maybe more like a hard shop, to be just as driven, just as strategic in our pursuit of spiritual wealth. It's a wake up call, a big

J John 03:07

one. And that leads us to, I think, another really important part of Jesus's teaching here, he's challenging the traditional image of God as a well, a king, which, let's be

S Sarah 03:18

real, at that time, huge, huge, like, that's all they really knew, right?

J John 03:22

And the term Father in heaven, they used it, yeah? But Jesus, he was always pushing against the limits of that comparison, because it's not enough. It's not enough, the societal norms, they were so stuck on this kingly image, it was like a necessary bridge, but it had its limits, absolutely, yeah, Jesus was aiming for something deeper, you know, a more profound truth about God. It's kind

S Sarah 03:47

of wild when you think about it, like, Jesus never really tried to prove God's existence, did he? Would that be like stop one, right? To not people to believe. His

you'd think that'd be like step one, right? To get people to believe. It's

J John 03:57

really interesting, right? Yeah, because it says a lot about the kind of faith he was encouraging, one that's, like, rooted in experience, not just, oh, okay, I get the concept. Yeah. It's not just head knowledge. It's exactly it's

S Sarah 04:09

deeper heart knowledge. Yeah, he's shifting the focus from knowing about God to, like, actually knowing God personally. And that kind

J John 04:17

of ties into this other thing that always sticks out to me, the difference between God and Father. Oh, yeah, yeah. It's subtle, but subtle.

S Sarah 04:23

But huge, huge, right? Yeah, like, what's the difference there? So

J John 04:27

when Jesus says God, it's often referring to this, like, vast, infinite concept, the big picture, yeah, the big kahuna, yeah. But Father, that evokes something different. Yeah, it's more I mentioned it personal, exactly. It reminds me of how the Urantia Book talks about those Jewish concepts, Elohim and Yahweh, Yes, totally. We're different, right? Yeah, Elohim, it's more about power, majesty, the grandeur of it, all right, the overarching awesomeness of God, yeah. And then Yahweh, that's more about covenant, personal interaction. Question The fatherly

S Sarah 05:00

side, exactly, and it seems like Jesus is, I don't know, going beyond those distinctions towards something more universal. Yeah, a father figure that's for everyone, accessible,

J John 05:12

absolutely. He even identifies solely as the Son of the Father. It's

S Sarah 05:17

true, like, that's his main gem, yeah, revealing



John 05:20

the Father's character is central to his whole message. It's almost



Sarah 05:24

like he's saying, if you want to get the father, you got to get me, yeah.



John 05:27

And it's not just about, like, intellectual understanding,



Sarah 05:32

right? It's not enough to just read about it in a book. It's about embodying it exactly, living it out.



John 05:38

And you see this throughout, you know, the Gospels, the whole ministry. It's not just about listening to the words, right? It's about action, doing something with



Sarah 05:47

it. And that takes us to that, you know, that one liner, He who has seen me has seen the Father, ah,



John 05:52

yes, powerful, right? Yeah, gets right to the heart of it, because



Sarah 05:56

he's not just like a messenger. He's claiming to be the message. He's a living embodiment of it all, which, okay, so, how does that work? 2000 years later, we can't exactly see him.



John 06:08

Yeah, that's a question that's like echoed through the centuries, right? But, you know, the

Urantia Book, I think, has a really insightful take on this. Okay, what's that? Remember that bit about Jesus being a spiritual lens? Oh, yeah, yeah. Like he's focusing this, this infinite light of God, into something we can actually grasp. So it's

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Sarah 06:26

not about physically seeing him. It's about recognizing that same Divine Spark, yes, in ourselves, in the world,

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John 06:33

exactly. It's about striving to embody those qualities that Jesus like embodied so

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Sarah 06:40

his life becomes a model, a blueprint, a way

J

John 06:43

to reflect that same divine character in our own lives, like right now. So

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Sarah 06:48

it's less about historical fact and more about, like, a

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John 06:50

way of life, yeah, a path, and it's available to everyone, right? Yeah,

S

Sarah 06:54

that's a beautiful thought. Okay, so that's all beautiful and inspiring. But like, how do we actually do that you will live like Jesus. It's easy to say, but in reality, yeah, it's

J

John 07:05

a bit more complicated than that, right? Life gets messy, it does, but I think it starts with that inward journey, yeah, cultivating those qualities that Jesus like embodied.

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Sarah 07:14

 Sarah 07:12
Okay, so what? Like? Love compassion,

 John 07:17
yeah? Love compassion, forgiveness, yeah, humility and those they're not just like these big, abstract ideas. They're choices, right, active choices in every interaction, every decision you have that opportunity. So

 Sarah 07:31
like, when I choose to forgive my friend who you know maybe wasn't so great, yeah, or I go out of my way to be kind to a stranger, that's like tapping into that same Wellspring that Jesus was all about,

 John 07:41
exactly. It's about those small, everyday acts, those ripples of grace that go out and impact not just our own lives, oh, but everyone around us too.

 Sarah 07:51
It's like that quote, I think it was Mother Teresa. We can't all do great things, but we can do small things with great love. Yes, that's perfect, right? Like, I'm probably not going to be healing the sick anytime soon, but choosing kindness, offering forgiveness, those are things we can do every day Exactly.

 John 08:09
Those are the echoes of Jesus's teachings in our routines, and the more we align ourselves with them, it gets easier. It does get easier, and we become more attuned to that divine presence in us and around us. It's not about like perfectly imitating Jesus, right? It's about letting his life, his teachings, inspire us, challenge us, guide us on our own unique paths.

 Sarah 08:30
It's about recognizing those, those God moments in our lives. Oh, I like that, right? Those little instances of like unexpected grace, or just feeling connected or just like that overwhelming love. Sometimes those moments, they're not random, they're glimpses of something more, something beyond us. You're

 John 08:49
exactly right. And you know, the more we open ourselves to those experiences, they

exactly right. And you know, the more we open ourselves to those experiences, they

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Sarah 08:53

happen more often. They

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John 08:54

really do. It's like tuning into a frequency we couldn't hear before. Suddenly, the static clears, and there's the music, there's the music.

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Sarah 09:03

This is mind blowing. It's hopeful, too. So connecting with the divine. It's not about following all these rules. It's about the inner work, right? Love, compassion, forgiveness, cultivating that inner world, and

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John 09:15

in doing that, we transform ourselves, but we also contribute to transforming the world around us. Okay? So

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Sarah 09:20

that brings up something, because if we're all capable of, you know, tapping into this Divine Spark, if you're all children of God, does everyone go to heaven? Like, what about the really, really bad people? Ah,

J

John 09:32

yeah, the age old question. And honestly, I don't have a definitive answer for you, fair enough, but the God that Jesus reveals he's all about love, mercy, forgiveness, boundless, boundless. And, you know, the Urantia Book, it doesn't shy away from how complex we are, our free will and all that. Just because we're all sparks doesn't mean, doesn't mean we always make, you know, sparkling choices, right? So

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Sarah 09:58

that's where growth comes in, like the soul. Soul's journey Exactly. It's

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John 10:01

progress, not perfection. We're all at different points on the path. So even the people who make awful choices, they still have that capacity for growth, for turning back towards the light. It's never too late, never too late. The Urantia Book calls it the continuing adventure of living faith.
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Sarah 10:17

love that. So even our doubts, our questions, those were all part of it. Absolutely

J

John 10:21

remember Jesus. He didn't shy away from the tough stuff. He challenged people, made them think, grapple with these big questions. That's how we grow, how we deepen our understanding of ourselves and the divine.

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Sarah 10:33

Wow. This has been incredible. I feel like we just scratched the surface. But so much to unpack, so much. But before we wrap up, any final thoughts for our listeners, something to like chew on.

J

John 10:43

You know, after all this, the question that really sticks with me is, if truly knowing God is about experience, not just words, as Jesus suggests, what experiences in your life have given you a taste of that, what moments big or small have revealed that love and grace that Jesus was all about? Hold on to those. Examine them. Let them lead you deeper into the mystery of it all.
Beautifully

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Sarah 11:05

said, I think I'll leave it right there, a question to carry with us, a reminder that this whole search for God, it's not some abstract thing. It's personal, it's relevant, and it's happening right now in every moment. If we open ourselves to it.