

Part 4, Paper 174, Tuesday Mor...he Temple, Midwayer Commission

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personal farewells, profound teachings, tailored guidance, public confrontations, forgiveness debate, divine forgiveness, unconditional love, public showdown, religious leaders, tax question, resurrection argument, greatest commandment, love and acceptance, message spread, unwavering faith

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah



John 00:00

Well, today we're diving into a pretty intense day, even for Jesus, as it's told in the Urantia Book,



00:06

definitely a Tuesday to remember for sure. We're talking personal goodbyes,



John 00:10

public confrontations and some really profound teachings. And get this all before lunch. Yeah, this



Sarah 00:17

day, this Tuesday, it's like a fast forward through some of the most challenging and insightful parts of his ministry.



John 00:23

It really is so to set the scene, we're starting this Tuesday morning with Jesus giving these really personal farewells to his apostles. It's almost as if he knew what was coming, you know, like he wanted to prepare them.

S Sarah 00:34
It's definitely more than just a See you later kind of thing. The thing that really gets me is the specific advice he gives to each apostle. Oh, yeah. Tell

J John 00:42
me about that. Well, it's

S Sarah 00:43
like he had this deep understanding, right, of their personalities, you know, their strengths, their weaknesses, and like, the unique challenges that each of them, each one individually, would face.

J John 00:54
So not a one size fits all. Pep Talk. Then, yeah, tailored guidance. Yeah,

S Sarah 00:59
exactly like take Andrew. Good Jesus tells him, and I'm quoting here, Be not dismayed by the events just ahead. Keep a firm hold on your brethren and see that they do not find you downcast. Wow. It's like he knew Andrew might be prone to losing hope, you know, and that he'd need that extra push to be strong for the others. Andrew,

J John 01:17
you're gonna need to be the rock for everyone else, basically, exactly. And then you've got Peter. Oh, Peter, this should be good, hey,

S Sarah 01:24
knowing Peter, right, the advice to him is, well, it's striking, to say the least, put not your trust in the arm of flesh nor in weapons of steel. Jesus says, establish yourself on the spiritual foundations of the eternal rocks. It's almost

J John 01:39
prophetic, isn't it? Yeah, like, you can't help but think about what's to come. It

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Sarah 01:43

really does feel that way. It's as if, and maybe this is reading into it too much, but almost like Jesus was preparing Peter, not just for the denial that was about to happen, but for, you know, the leadership role he'd eventually take on. It's a great point, but this Tuesday morning, it wasn't just emotional goodbyes and foreshadowing this debate pops up between Peter and James about forgiveness, of all things. Ooh, forgiveness.

J

John 02:07

Now that's a topic that, well, let's be honest. We're still trying to figure out today. What were they debating? Do we know?

S

Sarah 02:13

So Peter always the practical one. He was adamant that repentance and confession had to happen before forgiveness could even be on the table. Okay, so like, earn your forgiveness. Peter says, right, but James, he seemed to feel that God's forgiveness was already there, offered freely, really,

J

John 02:29

even

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Sarah 02:30

before we ask. That seemed to be his stance. Wow. So they're

J

John 02:34

grappling with a question that I mean, theologians have been debating this for centuries. Do we have to earn forgiveness, or is it just given to us? Amazing to see that playing out even among Jesus's closest friends. So what does Jesus say to all this?

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Sarah 02:48

This is where it gets really good. He uses this analogy, and it's so simple but so powerful to illustrate this whole divine forgiveness thing.

J

John 02:57

Okay, I'm intrigued. What's the analogy parents and children? Oh, I like where this is going. Tell

me more.

S

Sarah 03:02

So Jesus explains that a good parent, a loving parent, they get their kids shortcomings right even before the kid might even realize it themselves and get this a parent's love, real love. It's not conditional. It's not based on perfect behavior, meaning they don't just love their kids when they're acting right and then pull back that love when they mess up. No, they're love. It's constant, it's there no matter what I

J

John 03:24

get it. That's beautiful, actually, right? So he's saying that God, like a parent, like a really, really good parent, understands our flaws, our mess ups, and still loves us unconditionally. And it's not about our mistakes making God love us any less. You

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Sarah 03:40

got it. That's the beauty of this whole parent child analogy. It makes this idea of God's understanding, God's forgiveness, it makes it feel real, something we can actually grasp, because, let's face it, we all want that, that unconditional love and acceptance, you know, 100%

J

John 03:54

to be seen and loved, flaws and all, and that forgiveness it's not something we have to earn by being good enough. It's there because of love, exactly.

S

Sarah 04:05

It's powerful stuff. It really is, and it's interesting. You bring up that whole, you know, deep down desire for that unconditional love, because now we're gonna see Jesus walk into a situation that's, well, anything but loving and accepting. Oh

J

John 04:19

yeah, things are about to get real. To say the least, we go from this like intimate setting, saying goodbye to his closest friends to a full blown public showdown. We're talking bustling temple courts, crowds everywhere, and it seems like everyone's just waiting for Jesus to trip up and

S

Sarah 04:32

remember, this isn't just some casual debate. These religious leaders, they're not messing

around. They want to take Jesus down, publicly undermine everything he's about, and they're doing it during one of the busiest, most chaotic weeks of the year in Jerusalem. Talk



John 04:46

about pressure. Stakes are like, sky high. Okay, so who are the players in this takedown attempt?



Sarah 04:55

First up, you've got a group of Pharisees and Herodians. Okay?



John 04:59

Pharisees and. Rhodians got it and their weapon of choice, taxes.



Sarah 05:02

Taxes. Huh? I



John 05:04

bet that went down well,



Sarah 05:05

not a simple question, let me tell you, especially in this political climate, right, right? So



John 05:09

what do they hit him with? Straight



Sarah 05:11

up, they ask him, Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar or not?



John 05:15

Okay? And I'm guessing the trickiness of this question is about to become very clear. Oh, yeah.

S Sarah 05:20
On the surface, it sounds like a simple yes or no, right? But like everything with this crew,

J John 05:25
it's a trap. Weigh it on me. How's it a trap? Think

S Sarah 05:28
about it. If Jesus is like, yeah, sure, pay your taxes, he's gonna alienate pretty much every Jewish person there. They hate Roman rule, remember, makes sense. But if he's like, Nope, don't give Rome a dime, he's committing treason, like, full on, punishable by death, treason against the Roman Empire. Talk

J John 05:45
about a lose, lose situation. So they're basically trying to make him choose, right? Like, are you with us or against us? Exactly?

S Sarah 05:50
Loyalty to God or loyalty to Rome? Pick a side. Yeah. So how do you get out of that one?

J John 05:56
I don't know. How do you get out of that one? Yeah, I'm on the edge of my seat here. Well,

S Sarah 05:59
Jesus, being Jesus, pulls off this masterful response. First, he asks to see a Roman denarius, you know, the coin they use to pay the tax. Bold move. And he's like, whose image is on this? And of course, they're like, Caesar's. So Jesus, with that classic Jesus wisdom, says, Give to Caesar, what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God. He

J John 06:20
did not just do that. Yeah, that is brilliant, right? Okay, breakdown time. He's acknowledging Rome's authority, right? But he's not saying you have to compromise your faith or your values to do it.

S

Sarah 06:31

Nailed it. He's basically drawing this distinction, right? Like, yeah, you can respect the laws of the land, but that doesn't mean you have to compromise your beliefs.

J

John 06:39

Okay? So this feels relevant today. It's like, how do we navigate all these different demands, right? Work, family, faith, you name it. It's easy to feel torn totally

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Sarah 06:49

and this story, it reminds us we don't always have to choose. There's a way to honor our commitments, you know, without compromising our values.

J

John 06:56

I like it. So are the Pharisees and Herodians. Like, Okay, you win this round. You

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Sarah 07:01

wish this is just the beginning. They try another tactic this time, bringing in the Sadducees. Ah,

J

John 07:07

the Sadducees. They're a whole other ball game. Weren't they the ones known for being, well, let's just say a little skeptical.

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Sarah 07:16

Yeah. Skeptical is one way to put it. They were famous for it, actually. So

J

John 07:19

how do they try to trip Jesus up?

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Sarah 07:22

They hit him with this really elaborate story, right? Okay, about a woman who ends up outliving all seven of her husbands. Seven husbands, wow, and they're all like, so in the resurrection, whose wife is she gonna be? Okay?

J John 07:35
I see where this is going. It's not really about the woman or the husbands, is it? It's about the resurrection itself. Bingo.

S Sarah 07:41
The Sadducees, they didn't believe in the afterlife, which is interesting, right?

J John 07:45
Huge point of contention back then, for sure.

S Sarah 07:47
It shows how diverse Jewish beliefs were even back then, you know, right, right? But anyway, so the Sadducees, they're basically saying this whole resurrection idea, it's ridiculous. It would be chaos. Think of the logistics.

J John 07:59
Whose toothbrush does she use? The Afterlife gets complicated. Exactly.

S Sarah 08:03
They're using logic, you know, and what they see as common sense, to discredit something that's totally spiritual. So how do you answer that?

J John 08:13
I'm waiting for it. How does Jesus answer that?

S Sarah 08:15
He doesn't just answer it. He dismantles their whole argument. Tell me more. First, he points out that they're missing the point of the scriptures, classic

J John 08:24
Sadducees always getting caught up in the literal meaning. And then

S

Sarah 08:28

he goes on to explain that those who are resurrected like the angels in heaven, he says meaning, meaning, it's something we can't even really wrap our heads around. It's beyond our human understanding of life and death.

J

John 08:38

So he's not just confirming there's an afterlife. He's giving us a sneak peek into what it could be like, and I'm guessing, shutting down the Sadducees logic in the process. Oh, totally.

S

Sarah 08:49

And notice how he uses their own scriptures against them, especially Moses, that was their guy, right, right? So Jesus, he's speaking their language, meeting them on their turf, and then uses their own beliefs to Well, prove them wrong. Brilliant. Really, it's

J

John 09:04

like he's saying you're trying to use the scriptures to limit God, but God's bigger than your interpretation. Okay, I'm sensing a theme here. Jesus, one, religious leaders, zero, but I'm guessing this Tuesday's not over yet. Okay, so the Sadducees are speechless. The crowd, I'm guessing, is a little stunned. So what happens next in this theological gauntlet?

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Sarah 09:24

Well, the Pharisees, they're not done yet. They decide to switch tactics and send in a lawyer, an expert in religious law, to go toe to toe with Jesus.

J

John 09:34

Oh, a ringer. Okay, Lay it on me. What's the big question they use to challenge Jesus's authority?

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Sarah 09:39

He asks Jesus to name the greatest commandment. Wow. Okay,

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John 09:44

so we're talking classic theological debate here. Yeah, that question probably sparked arguments for I don't even know how long. It's a good strategy, though, you have to admit. I

arguments for I don't even know how long. It's a good strategy, though, you have to admit. I mean, how do you even pick just one greatest right?

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Sarah 09:56

And it's a question that still gets us talking today. What is the most important thing? What matters most in life,

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John 10:01

big questions. So how does Jesus answer that? You ready for this? Get me with it. He

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Sarah 10:05

says, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Okay, so far so good. This is the great and first commandment. He says, I'm with him. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love,

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John 10:19

of course, it all comes back to love, doesn't it? Not rituals, not laws, but love, love for God, love for others, even love for yourself, exactly. And that's

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Sarah 10:27

a constant theme with Jesus, right? That connection between loving God and loving the people around you totally

J

John 10:33

it's like seeing that divine spark in everyone you meet exactly. You know, it's easy to get lost in all the debates and the drama, but at its core, Jesus's message is really about love and acceptance, which is something that goes way beyond time and place you know absolutely.

S

Sarah 10:48

And that's what makes this day, this Tuesday, so powerful. We see this shift happening right in front of us. The text even mentions a group of Greeks coming up to Philip wanting to talk to Jesus. Greeks,

J

John 10:59

as in, not Jewish. Now, that's interesting. It is

as in, not Jewish. Now, that's interesting. It is.

S

Sarah 11:03

It's a turning point. This is where the message of Jesus starts to spread beyond just Judaism, you know, it's starting to reach everyone. Wow. Like a ripple effect, right? And Jesus speaking to these Greeks with his Jewish followers right there beside them, he acknowledges that the shift is happening. He even hints that some will accept what he's saying and some will reject it. It's almost like he's looking ahead, you know, to the future. He's

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John 11:26

speaking not just to the people standing right there with him, but to all of us, even now, right acknowledging that some people just aren't ready to hear it, but the message is still there, waiting. Yeah, so we've covered a lot of ground here. What would you say looking back at this Tuesday is the key takeaway for

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Sarah 11:43

me. It's the power of love, of forgiveness, and this unwavering faith that Jesus shows, even when things get tough, really tough. It's good

J

John 11:52

reminder. It's like, no matter what's going on in our lives right now, there's something bigger out there, different way of looking at things that's rooted in compassion and love, and sometimes you just have to trust that. Well, there you have it, folks, one Tuesday, and the life of Jesus might have been 1000s of years ago, but the message it still resonates until next time, keep seeking, keep asking questions and keep diving deep.