

Part 4, Paper 175, The Last Te...Discourse, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's last discourse, Temple tensions, message of mercy, powerful warning, Jewish leaders, Pharisees indictment, Sadducees concerns, Sanhedrin meeting, covenant rejection, universal love, personal accountability, hypocrisy confrontation, path of love, historical impact, redemption possible

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

J John 00:00
All right, get ready to dive deep, because today we're tackling a fascinating piece of spiritual history paper, 175 from the Urantia Book. Really

S Sarah 00:08
fascinating stuff. It's

J John 00:10
intense picture. Jerusalem, yeah, Tuesday afternoon, tensions are running high after Jesus's recent visit to the temple. Oh, absolutely. He's about to deliver his last temple discourse. Yeah,

S Sarah 00:20
this document is really something. It's like getting a front row seat to this absolutely crucial moment. You see this message of of mercy, but also this powerful warning to the Jewish people just days before, you know, yeah, the crucifixion. And I think for our

J John 00:37
listeners who might not be, you know, familiar with the Urantia Book, just to give a little bit of context, it's an incredibly detailed spiritual text, and he claims to offer this really unique perspective on on Jesus's life and teachings absolutely

S Sarah 00:50
next level insights, for sure. Yeah. And what

J John 00:53
I found so striking right off the bat, is this contrast in the first and second half of Jesus's speech, yeah, it's like night and day. It

S Sarah 01:03
is. It's a fascinating study. In contrast, definitely the first part is all about this, like this heartfelt plea for the Jewish people to turn back to God. Yeah, it really emphasizes his, his constant efforts, you know, and this genuine desire to offer them salvation. It's

J John 01:19
like he's pleading with them. He is. And here's where it gets really interesting. Judas Iscariot, as you know, the one who ends up betraying Jesus. He actually misses this whole first part of the speech. It

S Sarah 01:30
makes you think, you know, How would things have been different if Judas had been there for that message of mercy and reconciliation? That's

J John 01:37
like, like a real sliding doors moment, totally but then the tone totally shifts. It's like someone flipped a switch and Jesus delivers this incredibly powerful indictment of the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the Jewish leaders. And he does not hold back.

S Sarah 01:53
He does not. This is where we get some of the most intense language in the whole text, he says, and I quote, Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness. Whoa.

J John 02:10
I mean reading that you really get a sense of how direct Jesus was being. But are these woes

I mean reading that you really get a sense of how direct Jesus was being. But are these woes meant to be like curses?

S

Sarah 02:18

That's a good question. Not really. They're more like, I think, pronouncements of the natural consequences that would come from their actions. He's highlighting the inevitable results of their choices, not like, you know, wishing ill on them or anything. It's an important

J

John 02:29

distinction. Yeah. So this brings us to a big question, Why were these Jewish leaders so determined to silence Jesus? What was driving them?

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Sarah 02:41

Well, it's complicated, but the text points to a few things. The Sadducees, for example, they were really concerned with keeping their power and privilege. They were afraid of the Romans intervening. They were protective of their you know, Temple prophets, right? And and they were really worried about potential social upheaval. They saw Jesus as this threat to their carefully constructed world. They

J

John 03:02

were really invested in maintaining that status quo totally. But then you've got

S

Sarah 03:06

the Pharisees, and they're coming from a totally different place. For them, it's all about authority, specifically their authority, their interpretation of religious law. Yeah, they were not happy, no, not at all. They saw Jesus as this direct challenge to their traditions. You know, they even accused him of blasphemy, for calling God his Father. Oh, wow. Which, if you think about it for a second, how radical that claim would have been at the time. Yeah, it's hard for us to really grasp that absolutely unheard of. And you know, what's so interesting is that we see those same power dynamics playing out even today. Like think about how many times we've seen throughout history religious leaders or political leaders trying to silence voices that don't agree with them, all out of fear or a desire to hold on to their power. It's incredible. It's a pattern we see over and over again, absolutely. So this all kind of comes to a head in the Sanhedrin meeting, right? That's the Jewish High Court. And

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John 03:58

this is legit. This isn't just some like, you know,

S Sarah 04:01
oh no, this is the highest legal and religious authority in Judea. So when they condemn Jesus and Lazarus, don't forget about Lazarus. It's a huge deal. It makes you wonder, you know, was this decision just about Jesus himself, or was it something more? Right? Because

J John 04:15
it almost feels like it's more than just one man. It's

S Sarah 04:18
bigger than that. The Urantia Book seems to suggest that when they reject Jesus, they're rejecting something much deeper their covenant with God. It really makes you think about the relationship between individual choice and collective destiny. This

J John 04:32
heavy question

S Sarah 04:33
absolutely and the Urantia Book really captures the magnitude of that decision. You know, it talks about the city on edge. Jerusalem buzzing with speculation about Jesus's fate. You can practically feel the tension. It's palpable totally even individuals like Nicodemus, who's a secret believer in Jesus, he's torn between his faith and the very real danger posed by the authorities.

J John 04:55
It's that struggle, isn't it, of wanting to speak your truth, but also being afraid of the consequences Exactly.

S Sarah 05:00
It makes you wonder, what would you do in that situation? Would you have the courage to stand up for what you believe in? It

J John 05:08
really makes you think about how our choices can have these huge rebel effects throughout history,

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Sarah 05:14

no doubt about it. And you know, we can't talk about this event without addressing the elephant in the room the way this event has been misinterpreted throughout history. You know, especially when it comes to anti semitism, it's definitely a sensitive topic, but it needs to be addressed. It does. It's

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John 05:30

one of those things we have to approach with a lot of care and understanding. Yeah. So I think it's really important to look at how the Urantia Book handles this absolutely.

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Sarah 05:37

And the text is very clear, God's love is universal. Yeah, it's for everyone. It's not just for certain groups, right? A blaming a whole group of people for what a few individuals did is not just inaccurate. It goes against everything Jesus was talking

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John 05:49

about. It ultimately comes down to personal accountability, right? Exactly, each person is judged on their own actions and choices, not their background or their religion, and that's something we're still grappling with today. It's

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Sarah 06:00

a timeless message, for sure, and it really gets to the heart of why this deep dive into paper. 175 is so powerful. It's not just ancient history. It's a call to action for all of us. 100% it's about confronting hypocrisy wherever we see it, looking inward and really examining ourselves.

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John 06:17

It's about choosing that path of love and mercy instead of judgment, even when it's hard,

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Sarah 06:23

absolutely and recognizing that our choices, the ones we make, individually and together, they have consequences that echo throughout time.

J

John 06:32

This deep dive has given me so much to think about. So for our listeners out there who maybe haven't explored the Urantia Book yet, what would you say is the most important takeaway

haven't explored the Urantia Book yet, what would you say is the most important takeaway from this last temple discourse?

S

Sarah 06:42

That's a great question. You know, for me, it boils down to this. In this moment, Jesus embodies the power of truth and love at the same time. He's calling hypocrisy wherever he finds it, he's challenging us to live what we believe no matter what, and have the courage to stand up for what's right even when it's difficult. That

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John 07:03

is such a powerful message. It's a good reminder that even when things are tough, there's always room for compassion and understanding. I

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Sarah 07:10

think so, and that's what makes it so relevant, even 1000s of years later, it's proof that hope endures and redemption is always possible. Well,

J

John 07:17

said, this has been an incredible deep dive for anyone listening who wants to learn more, I definitely recommend checking out paper 175 in the you're on chip book. It's one of those texts that really stays with

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Sarah 07:27

you. Couldn't agree more. It really makes you think critically, challenge what you think you know, and strive to live more authentically,

J

John 07:32

perfectly put and on that note, we'll wrap up this deep dive. Thanks for joining us on this journey through such a pivotal and thought provoking moment in history. Until next time, keep asking questions, stay curious and never stop searching for the truth.