

Part 4, Paper 178, Last Day at... the Camp, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

dual citizenship, earthly kingdoms, kingdom of heaven, leading by example, radical transformation, authenticity, eternal significance, vision of future, core teachings, human emotions, true strength, courage and compassion, engaging faith, small choices, unwavering commitment

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

- S** Sarah 00:00
Ever feel like juggling two worlds, like, how do you balance your beliefs with, you know, actually living in the world? That's kind of what we're diving into today. Yeah, it's
- J** John 00:07
a classic dilemma, right?
- S** Sarah 00:08
Totally. So we're looking at Jesus's teachings, specifically stuff he talked about on his last free day before. Well, a pretty pivotal moment in history.
- J** John 00:18
It's like talk about pressure, right? This is his last chance to really get through to his followers,
- S** Sarah 00:23
exactly. And the text we're looking at, it's amazing. It paints this picture of him, just like hanging out with this group of, what, 50 people, something
- J** John 00:32

like that. Yeah, there wasn't a huge crowd, which makes it even more intimate, you know. Yeah,

S Sarah 00:36

totally. So imagine it Thursday morning. Jesus and his followers head to this quiet spot near their camp, and he starts talking about some seriously heavy stuff.

J John 00:46

And he doesn't sugarcoat it either. He jumps right into this idea of dual citizenship.

S Sarah 00:51

Dual citizenship. What's that all

J John 00:53

about? Basically, he's saying, look, there are earthly kingdoms, right? Governments, rulers, all that, right? The Real World, yeah, and then there's the kingdom of heaven. Okay, so, like, two different sets of rules, kind of he's saying both are real, both have power, but they operate on totally different principles. So

S Sarah 01:12

is he saying we should just, like, check out a society and focus on the spiritual stuff? No,

J John 01:17

not at all. And that's what's so cool about this. He's like, be good citizens, pay your taxes, respect authority, but, but, but your ultimate allegiance is to something bigger, to God's law, to love, to something beyond the material world. Okay, I

S Sarah 01:33

get that, but, like, how do we actually live that out? It's easy to say, be a good citizen, but what happens when your beliefs clash with what society says is, okay,

J John 01:41

that's where things get really interesting, right? It's like, how do you stay true to yourself while still functioning in a world that doesn't always share your values? That's where this idea of

still functioning in a world that doesn't always share your values? That's where this idea of leading by example comes in, leading

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Sarah 01:54

by example. Okay, I've heard that before, but what does it actually mean? He's

J

John 01:58

basically telling his followers, let your life be the evidence. Don't try to force your beliefs on others. Just live them out. Show, don't tell exactly. And he uses this amazing metaphor, leaven in the dough. Leaven in the dough. Yeah, like when you're baking bread, a tiny bit of leaven can make the whole loaf rise. I see it's subtle, but it transforms the whole thing. That's what he's saying about our actions, about love and kindness and integrity, they have this ripple effect. I

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Sarah 02:24

like that. So it's not about these big, showy displays, but just like living your truth consistently. Yeah,

J

John 02:31

exactly. It's the small, everyday choices that really matter. But

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Sarah 02:35

he's also a warning against hypocrisy, right? Like, it's not enough to just talk the talk. You gotta walk the walk 100%

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John 02:41

he's calling for a radical transformation. But it starts on the inside. It's about aligning your actions with your values, even when no one's watching.

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Sarah 02:49

So authenticity basically, live it, breathe. It powerful stuff. But, and this is a thing, right? He knew this wasn't gonna be easy for them. Oh,

J

John 02:57

absolutely. This wasn't some pep talk. He was preparing them for the real deal. Yeah,



Sarah 03:01

he knew things were about to get intense. Understatement. He knew his



John 03:05

time was short, and he's straight up with them. Yeah, they might face persecution, maybe even death, just for what they believe,



Sarah 03:14

heavy stuff. Imagine hearing that the weight of that I know,



John 03:18

right? Yeah. But here's the thing, even though he's being real with them, there's still this incredible sense of hope in his words, like, yeah, things are gonna be tough, but you're not alone. What you do matters. It's part of something bigger. Your actions have eternal significance. It's this mind blowing mix of realism and hope,



Sarah 03:38

yeah, and that's what's so amazing about his message, right? It's not this pie in the sky. Everything's perfect kind of hope. It's this gritty, realistic, but still ultimately hopeful message totally



John 03:50

and to illustrate that, he starts describing the future. He paints this picture, this vision. What kind of vision he's talking about, cities whose builder is God, worlds whose habit of life is righteousness and joy in the truth. Can you imagine they're about to walk into Jerusalem knowing things were about to go down, and he's talking about this incredible future. It's like



Sarah 04:09

this glimpse of the finish line, right? A reminder that their struggles, they're not in vain,



John 04:15

exactly. And you know that message, it's not just for them, it's for us too, right? Like, no matter how dark things get, there's always something worth striving for, something bigger than

ourselves, absolutely. But there's this other layer to this, something I think we need to unpack. It's like, this isn't some ancient rule book, right? It's about embracing a way of life, something that grows and changes with every generation. So

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Sarah 04:41

it's not about getting stuck in the past, but taking those core teachings, and I don't know, making them relevant to our lives today, exactly. And

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John 04:48

speaking of navigating, think about their actual journey. They're heading to Jerusalem, right? You imagine the tension. They know something's coming back. They have no idea. It's like that feeling when you know a storm's brewing. But you don't know how bad it's gonna be,

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Sarah 05:01

except this wasn't just any storm, and most of them, they were totally clueless about what was gonna happen. I mean, they knew there were threats against Jesus, but they didn't get the full picture, not even close. It's like watching a movie and you just wanna yell, don't go in there. Knowing what we know now

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John 05:16

adds a whole other level to the story, totally

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Sarah 05:18

but even without that knowledge, the tension must have been so thick you could cut it with a knife, especially when they reached Jerusalem. The text says Jesus stopped at the spot overlooking the city, the

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John 05:32

same spot where just the day before, he talked about Jerusalem being destroyed. Whoa, talk about foreshadowing, right? And there's this sadness in his voice, this grief for a city that's lost its way,

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Sarah 05:44

and the disciples are caught in the middle trying to make sense of it all. Like, how do you reconcile these prophecies of destruction with you know, believing your leader is going to establish His kingdom? It's



John 05:55

a lot to process, and it's in that moment with all those emotions swirling that Jesus lays it on the line. He tells them, point blank, they're gonna face persecution. They might even die for what they believe. It's



Sarah 06:07

that reminder that taking a stand can cost you something. Sometimes, doing what you know is right, it means going against the grain, absolutely



John 06:15

but even the face of danger, there's this incredible courage in his words, he's basically saying, your strength, it doesn't come from fighting back. It comes from something much deeper. I'm the spirit, exactly. And that message, it's timeless. You know, true strength, it's not about power or dominance. It's about that unwavering commitment to what you believe in, especially when it's hard. Okay, so



Sarah 06:38

let's talk about the Last Supper. The text goes into some pretty specific detail about how it was all arranged. It



John 06:45

wasn't some spur of the moment thing. It was planned, like really planned.



Sarah 06:49

It's almost like a spy novel or something, the secret meeting, the sense of urgency. And then there's John Mark. What do you think was going through his head?



John 06:58

Well, remember, Jesus had sent him ahead the day before. They needed a safe place for this meal, somewhere discreet, probably



Sarah 07:05

because they suspected Judas was involved, right? Most

J John 07:08

likely, they couldn't risk him overhearing their plans. So John Mark, he finds this upper room at his father's house, right? Yeah, large, furnished and ready. The text says, Can you imagine all this chaos, and they're quietly preparing for this last meal together, and that's where everything changes. It does, and we'll get into all of that right after this. Okay,

S Sarah 07:28

so picture it Upper Room. John Mark's probably pacing downstairs, keeping watch and inside Well, knowing what we know now, it's intense, right? This wasn't just dinner. It was, well, it was a lot bigger than they knew at the time. It

J John 07:42

really was. And the text does this interesting thing. It hints at how heavy the atmosphere was. You can sense this foreboding, but also this deep, deep love and respect for Jesus. They'd seen him do incredible things, miracles, right?

S Sarah 07:58

They'd witnessed it all. But still, imagine trying to wrap your head around that the weight of knowing this might be your last meal, if the person you believe is the Son of God,

J John 08:06

it's a lot, and that's what makes it so relatable. You know, even the people closest to him, they couldn't fully grasp what was happening. They were human, exactly. And then there's Judas

S Sarah 08:14

talk about a curveball, knowing he's about to betray Jesus. What do you think was he really there at that meal? He

J John 08:22

was and it's something that's been debated for centuries, right? What was going through his head? We can't know for sure, but the text does mention something interesting. Remember how we were talking about David Zebedee, how he was in charge of the money juice actually hands over all the money, right before that last meal? Hmm,

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Sarah 08:40

interesting. Do you think that was, like, significant, or just a coincidence?

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John 08:44

It's hard to say. Was it a power play, a way for Judas to, I don't know, exert some control, or was it more practical, like he knew things were about to get messy and didn't want to be responsible for the money? We don't know for sure, it's

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Sarah 08:59

those little details that get me, you know, those glimpses into the human side of the story, they weren't just characters in a book. They were real people making impossible choices, dealing with real emotions, just like us.

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John 09:11

And that's what makes those teachings so powerful, right? This whole thing, this dance between the human and the divine, trying to figure out how to live it all out

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Sarah 09:18

in a world that doesn't always make sense exactly so as we wrap up here, what's the one thing you hope people take away from this deep dive?

J

John 09:25

You know, for me, it's that reminder that faith, it's not passive. It's not about escaping the world. It's about engaging with it, even when it's hard, even when it's scary. It's about striving to live out what you believe, like those people in that upper room, being leaven in the dough, yes, making those small, consistent choices that add up to something bigger, and remembering that true strength. It's not about control, it's about courage and compassion and staying true to yourself even when it seems like the world is falling apart around you. Powerful

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Sarah 09:58

stuff. Thanks for taking this deep dive with us until next time, keep searching, keep questioning, and keep living those truths that make this world a little brighter.