

Part 4, Paper 180, The Farewel...Discourse, Midwayer Commission

Sun, Oct 06, 2024 7:47AM 9:33

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's farewell, love and service, new commandment, radical love, genuine connection, vine and branches, power of prayer, God's will, Spirit of Truth, inner voice, spiritual growth, divine perception, lifelong journey, deeper understanding, spiritual maturity

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

S Sarah 00:00

All right, so this is interesting stuff. We're diving into Jesus's farewell to his apostles, as it appears in the Urantia Book. Talk about a pivotal moment. It's like we're eavesdropping on a turning point in history. So in this deep dive, we'll unpack his words and really try to grasp the weight of his message. We're talking love, service and what the future holds, big stuff. And

J John 00:20

what's striking me right off the bat, is how Jesus changes his approach. Remember all that talk about traveling light, depending on people's kindness and all well now it's like he's saying, Okay, guys, time to pack a bag and be ready to fend for yourself. Wow. It's

S Sarah 00:33

like a complete 180 almost like he's saying, All right, guys, things are about to get real. What do you make of this shift? What does it tell us about what his followers were going to be up against.

J John 00:42

I think it's a clear sign that the honeymoon phase is over. You know, like Jesus is acknowledging the opposition they're going to face. He's preparing them for a world that isn't exactly welcoming them with open arms. Yeah,



S

Sarah 00:53

it makes his message about love and unity even more powerful, like he knew things were going to get rough, but that love was the key, absolutely. And then there's that new commandment, he introduces Love one another as I have loved you, which isn't quite the same as the whole love thy neighbor. Thing is it all?

J

John 01:09

Yeah, it goes so much deeper than that. Remember, Jesus demonstrated His love by literally putting his life on the line for his friends. This new commandment, this is about embodying that same radical, selfless love. And

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Sarah 01:22

it's interesting, you know, he calls them friends. It's almost like he's highlighting how this love isn't some distant, abstract ideal. It's about real, genuine connection. Exactly.

J

John 01:31

It's like he's saying this isn't about blind sacrifice. It's about living out your love through genuine connection and joyful service. You know, I think true faith, true discipleship, it thrives on that kind of active, joyful love, which

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Sarah 01:45

brings us to that vivid analogy of the vine and the branches. Man. It's such a powerful image. Jesus, the vine, His followers, the branches and the fruit they bear, is this love and service he keeps talking about. Think

J

John 01:57

about it. Picture a gardener carefully tending to a vine, pruning away the dead weight to make room for even more fruit. It's like a powerful metaphor, you know, for the challenges, the doubts we all face. They aren't meant to punish us, but to help us grow and ultimately, to help us bear more fruit. You know, those acts of love and service we were talking about? It's

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Sarah 02:17

like a good reminder that growth, it's not always comfortable or easy. Sometimes you gotta let go of what's holding you back to really blossom. Yeah,

J

John 02:23

and this whole idea of growth, of being fruitful, it feels connected to another big theme here, the power of prayer. But Jesus, he throws a bit of a curveball our way, doesn't he? He does. He specifically tells us that prayer isn't about getting anything you ask for. Yeah,

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Sarah 02:40

it's so easy to fall into that trap, though, isn't it? Oh, for sure, we treat prayer like a cosmic vending machine, but Jesus, yeah, he challenges that whole notion head on. He does. He emphasizes aligning our will with God's will. So it's less about demanding things and more about understanding and fulfilling a greater purpose. Okay,

J

John 03:01

now that's a powerful thought. So it's not about bending the universe to our will, but surrendering to a will that's greater than our own. But how do we even begin to understand God's will? See, that's where things get really interesting. It requires a real shift in perspective. We have to learn to listen to that quiet voice within, trust our intuition, and be open to the unexpected ways in which God's plan unfolds. And trust me, it doesn't always happen on our terms or on our timeline. You gotta let go of that. Need to control everything you know, trust in something bigger than yourself. Yeah, that's where the real power comes from, the real purpose. But you know, Jesus, he doesn't sugarcoat things. He's straight up about the fact that his followers are in for some rough times. He draws

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Sarah 03:43

that direct line between their experiences and his own, like you will be hated because of me. He says intense stuff,

J

John 03:51

intense. He's acknowledging the very real persecution they're gonna face, and all just for being down with him and his message. And that's where I think the promise of the Spirit of Truth that becomes even more crucial. Yeah,

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Sarah 04:01

tell me more about this spirit of truth. It's like he's giving them some kind of secret weapon, right? It kind

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John 04:06

of is, don't think of it like a set of rules you have to follow. It's more like you're tapping into a living, breathing Spirit of Truth, and it lives inside you. So

S Sarah 04:16

it's less about having all the answers, and more about trusting your gut, that inner voice, exactly. And

J John 04:21

this spirit of truth, it's not some rigid dogma. It's active, experiential. It guides you, you know, leads you to a deeper, more personal understanding of truth. And you know, Jesus, he was wary of folks trying to put truth in a box, right? He even warned against, what did he say, imprisoning truth in formulas, codes, creeds, you know, all those external things. It reminds

S Sarah 04:44

me how people get so caught up arguing over interpretations of religious texts. You know, they miss the whole point. The heart of the message gets lost. It's so true,

J John 04:54

like he even uses the golden rule as an example. It's not just about understanding the words. It's about what. Letting the Spirit of truth, that inner wisdom, well, it guides you to the real meaning, the meaning that's all about, love, compassion, understanding, like he's

S Sarah 05:09

saying, don't just follow the letter of the law. Let the spirit of the law guide you, which makes sense, especially since, well, he's not going to be physically around much longer,

J John 05:18

and he says that straight up, right? He acknowledges that they're sad about him leaving, but he's like, this is important his departure. It's crucial for the spirit of truth to really come through. So

S Sarah 05:29

it's like, he's saying, like, I gotta step aside here, make room for something even bigger. Yes,

J John 05:33

he's going back to the Father, but not before reassuring his people he's gonna be with them in a different way. in spirit. So there's

S Sarah 05:42

this big theme of his physical presence transforming, becoming something spiritual, accessible to anyone who is open to it. Right? Think

J John 05:51

of it like a shift from what you can see to what you can't material to spiritual. And it takes a lot of faith, a deep trust that this connection, it's real and even deeper than before.

S Sarah 06:03

And he prepares them for it. Doesn't just spring it on them. He reminds them, you've been praying to the Father in my name, but soon you'll be able to pray to him directly. That's a big deal. It's like he's initiating them, bringing them up to a whole new level spiritually.

J John 06:16

It really is a huge display of spiritual authority. But he's also real with them. He knows they're still learning and growing. He even says, down here, I've been teaching you in Proverbs and parables, you were still like children, but the time is coming when I'll talk to you plainly about the Father and His kingdom. So

S Sarah 06:32

he's speaking their language, meeting them where they are, but now it's time to level up. Time for a deeper understanding,

J John 06:39

right? And he connects that directly to their spiritual growth. Yeah. He says, When you become perfected in spirit growth, you shall then see the Father Himself. Hold on.

S Sarah 06:47

This really jumps out at me. He's saying our ability to perceive the Divine is directly related to our spiritual growth.

J John 06:54

Now, that's a powerful insight. We always think of seeing in a literal way, you know. But what

now, that's a powerful insight. We always think of seeing in a literal way, you know. But what about seeing with the eyes of our soul? You

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Sarah 07:03

know? It makes me think, what does it even mean to truly see the father? I mean, we're talking about Jesus, right? He showed us the way to know God. So what does it mean to also see God through spiritual growth? It's kind of a brain teaser.

J

John 07:15

It really is. Yeah, it's a question that's had people scratching their heads for centuries. Maybe it's hinting at a different way of seeing altogether, not just with our physical eyes, you know, right? Like

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Sarah 07:25

we're so used to relying on our senses. But what if there's a whole other level of perception, something we can tap into? What if

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John 07:32

seeing the father is about developing a different kind of sight, a spiritual perception, like a deeper knowing that goes way beyond our usual way of experiencing

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Sarah 07:42

things, so less of a eureka moment where God suddenly appears, and more about cultivating this deeper awareness, like being open to this divine presence that's already there all around us. That's a

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John 07:53

beautiful way to put it, and maybe that's the kind of perception, that ability to truly see. Maybe it takes a certain level of spiritual maturity to

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Sarah 08:00

get there, like we have to fine tune ourselves to pick up on a frequency we weren't tuned into before, exactly.

J

John 08:05

 John 08:09

And that takes practice. It's about aligning ourselves with that divine frequency through things like prayer, meditation, you know, acts of love and service, all the stuff we've been talking about. So

 Sarah 08:16

it's active, not just a passive waiting game. We have to work at it, cultivate that connection, that spiritual sight. Yeah,

 John 08:21

and, you know, who knows? Maybe through that process, we start to experience the divine in ways we never even imagined. Maybe that's when we truly begin to see this

 Sarah 08:31

has been really eye opening. It's amazing how these ancient texts, they still have so much power to challenge us, make us rethink what we think we know. I know.

 John 08:39

They remind us that spiritual growth, it's not about checking things off a list. It's a journey, a lifelong journey of discovery,

 Sarah 08:47

and a journey that takes guts you have to be willing to step outside your comfort zone, embrace the unknown, open yourself up to the possibility of something much bigger than yourself, and that's what makes it an adventure, right? Absolutely, you know this deep dive into Jesus's farewell. It reminds us that even though he's physically gone, his message, it's still here, love, service, striving for spiritual growth. These things matter even 1000s of years later.

 John 09:16

It's a message we're thinking about, really thinking about, for sure. So

 Sarah 09:19

to everyone listening as you're on your own journey. Remember, it's about the journey itself. It's not just about the destination. It's about becoming, always, seeking, questioning, being open to a deeper understanding of yourself and of the Divine you.

