

Part 4, Paper 181, Final Admon... Warnings, Midwayer Commission

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SPEAKERS

John, Sarah



John 00:00

All right, so tonight we're, um,



Sarah 00:01

we're diving bib into something a little unexpected. We're looking at what happens after the last supper. You know that moment when Jesus says goodbye to his apostles? And we're drawing on the Urantia Book for this deep dive. And you know what makes this so fascinating, the sheer detail. It's not just the broad strokes. We're talking about these really intimate conversations, almost like Jesus knew exactly what each of them needed to hear before Well, you know, everything changed, yeah.



John 00:30

And, you know, it's interesting at this point in the story, the apostles, they're expecting a conquering king. They think it's all about to go down right here on Earth, a very literal kingdom. Yeah. And then Jesus starts talking about leaving about a different kind of kingdom, and I think that's got to be jarring for them. They don't get it yet.



Sarah 00:49

You can practically feel the tension, right? So, so how does Jesus comfort them? Well, he says something that's been repeated for centuries, peace, I leave with you. My Peace, I give to you, but this is way more than just a nice thought, right?

J John 01:03

Oh, absolutely, yeah. This isn't just, you know, the absence of conflict or anything like that. It's the peace that comes from really knowing God, from aligning yourself, like, totally with a plan that's bigger than you like, think about Jesus during His ministry, even when things were a mess, he had this inner peace, this calm at his core, because he was so connected to God. And that's the piece he's promising them exactly, a piece that's like unshakable no matter what's going on around you.

S Sarah 01:30

And he doesn't stop there. He also promises to return just for a bit, though, and this is where it gets interesting, because the Urantia Book makes a distinction between this return and the arrival of the Spirit of Truth. Yeah, that's huge. So can you unpack that for us? Okay, so think

J John 01:46

of it this way, this first return, that's Jesus after the resurrection. Those appearances, they're these powerful moments, but they're brief. It's about solidifying their faith, proving it's not over, right, exactly, but the real guidance, the lasting presence that comes later with the spirit of truth. So it's

S Sarah 02:04

less about a king coming back to rule, and more like what a shepherd reassuring his flock,

J John 02:09

yeah, yeah, and also preparing them to lead themselves eventually. It's like he's giving them a glimpse of the future, and the Spirit of Truth is key to that. This isn't about blind faith. It's about this inner guide, this direct connection to the divine that helps you navigate life. You know,

S Sarah 02:26

it's like he's saying, I'm giving you the tools, showing you the way, but the actual journey that's on you

J John 02:32

exactly. And here's what's fascinating. Jesus then tailors his final instructions to each apostle. He takes their personalities, their needs, all of it into account. It's like



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Sarah 02:44

a coach giving each player a pep talk before the big game. So let's, um, let's dive into some of these personal goodbyes. Shall we? Let's do it. We'll start with John the Beloved Disciple. Yeah, John's

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John 02:55

interesting. He represents this more introspective, sensitive side of faith. You know he's the one who asks how to love more deeply,

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Sarah 03:03

and Jesus's answer beautiful in its simplicity, you will learn to love your brethren more when you first learn to love their father in heaven more. So it's not just about feeling love. It's about right? It flows from somewhere else, understanding that connection we all share with something bigger. It's about

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John 03:18

recognizing that divine spark in everyone. That's a powerful message, especially these days.

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Sarah 03:24

It really is. Now onto someone a bit more, shall we say, forceful, Simon zolodis. This guy is passionate.

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John 03:33

Oh yeah, Simon, he's got that fire, that revolutionary spirit, but he's also really stuck on this idea of a very literal kingdom, like overthrowing Rome by force. He's

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Sarah 03:43

got the loyalty, the drive, but maybe missing the point a little bit. Yeah, and Jesus,

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John 03:47

in His infinite patience, he gently corrects him. He acknowledges Simon's devotion, but you can almost hear this knowingness in his voice, like he knows Simon's gonna be devastated when things don't play out, like he's expecting, right?

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Sarah 03:59

Like Simon, I see your heart but true strength that's about aligning your will with the fathers Exactly.

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John 04:05

He's guiding Simon to a deeper understanding, one that's less about outward change and more about that inner transformation. And isn't

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Sarah 04:12

that such a good reminder for all of us, sometimes the biggest battles we face are the ones within ourselves, right? All the time? Yeah, those moments when we have to let go of our limited understanding and embrace something bigger. But we'll, uh, we'll save that for next time where we left off. It seemed like Simon zelotus was having some trouble wrapping his mind around the idea that the Kingdom wasn't exactly going to be a physical one, and we were about to get to Jesus's interaction with Peter. Yeah, and

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John 04:39

Peter's a trip, isn't he always good intentions, but

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Sarah 04:42

a bit impulsive. You could say that, and that knowing look Jesus gives him classic. It's like he can see right through Peter,

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John 04:49

you know, totally. And that's when Jesus drops this line. What experience must you pass through before you will learn to set a guard upon your lips. It's

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Sarah 04:58

almost playful, but you can hear. You're the seriousness underneath, right?

J

John 05:01

Absolutely and, well, that tendency to just speak his mind, it's about to land Peter in hot water, right? That's where the whole denial thing comes in.

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Sarah 05:11

It's such a heavy moment. But even in that, you get the sense of compassion from Jesus, like he gets it he knows

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John 05:17

what's coming. And it's like he's saying, Look, Peter, I know you're gonna mess up. It's gonna hurt, but you'll get through it. It's part of the journey, right?

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Sarah 05:25

He's not condemning Peter. He's preparing him like this is gonna be tough, but you'll come out stronger on the other side. Yeah, and

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John 05:33

it makes you realize we've all been there, haven't we said things we regret, made choices that seemed right at the time, but it's

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Sarah 05:40

that reminder that messing up, it's not the end, it's how we learn and grow. And

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John 05:44

just like he did with Peter, Jesus offered each of the apostles guidance that was tailored to them. It's remarkable, really.

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Sarah 05:52

Speaking of which, what about those Zebedee brothers, James and John? They were quite the ambitious duo.

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John 05:58

Weren't they? Remember? They were the ones who asked for the prime seats in the kingdom, always vying for those front row spots, exactly. And Jesus with that perfect blend of firmness and kindness. He uses that moment to remind James, whether your ministry be long or short, possess your soul in patience. It's almost like he's saying, Guys, your ambition. It's not a bad thing. Just temper it, channel it. True. Strength comes from serving something larger than yourselves, right?

- S** Sarah 06:26
It's not about chasing accolades. It's about it's about the bigger picture, trusting in the timing of things, surrendering to something beyond our own plans, exactly. And you
- J** John 06:35
know that brings us to Andrew. Now, he was often in the background, but always there, always
- S** Sarah 06:39
reliable, the one Jesus chose to be the group's administrator, right? That's the
- J** John 06:43
one. But as Jesus is preparing to leave, he tells Andrew, from now on, you may exercise no jurisdiction over your brethren except that which you have earned in your capacity as spiritual leader and which your brethren therefore freely recognize.
- S** Sarah 06:57
So it's a shift from an assigned role to leadership that's
- J** John 07:01
earned based on respect, on spiritual connection, not just a title. It's
- S** Sarah 07:06
almost like Jesus is saying, Andrew, your strength is in bringing people together, inspiring them through who you are, not what position you hold.
- J** John 07:13
It's a good reminder for all of this, isn't it true? Leadership, it's not about power. It's about using your gifts to serve others,
- S** Sarah 07:19
and sometimes it's knowing when to step back, let others shine and offer support without trying to control everything,



John 07:26

which, speaking of teamwork, brings us to James and Judas, the Alpheus twins. Now they were kind of the unsung heroes. Weren't they? The ones



Sarah 07:33

who consistently show up get things done, no fanfare needed,



John 07:37

and Jesus sees that he recognizes their dedication, telling them hard times are just ahead of us, but never doubt that you were once called to the work of the Kingdom. It's



Sarah 07:48

like he's saying your work hasn't gone unnoticed. You matter. Don't ever forget that



John 07:53

in a world obsessed with recognition and accolades, it's a powerful reminder true service isn't about applause. It's about showing up authentically, consistently, even when no one's looking. And



Sarah 08:05

that brings us to Philip, who, if I remember correctly, was always the one who needed a little extra convincing. Oh, Philip, the king of all. Believe it when I see it. He's the one who asked Jesus to show them the father, right? Like, if you could just do that one little thing. That's



John 08:18

our Philip. And it's interesting because in these final hours, you can almost sense Jesus gently steering him towards a deeper understanding of faith. He tells him far better, that you should have seen all this by faith, but since you were sincere, even in your material sightedness, you will live to see my words fulfilled. It's



Sarah 08:37

almost like he's saying, Philip, I get where you're coming from. You need that proof. But imagine if you could embrace the possibility of something more, something beyond what you

can see right in front of you.

J John 08:48

Yeah. And he challenges Philip even further, saying, dedicate your life to the cause of leading mankind to search for God and to seek Eternal realities with the eye of spiritual faith and not with the eyes of the material minds like Whoa. That's a big ask.

S Sarah 09:02

It really is. It's calling us to step outside of what we think we know, to trust in those unseen forces that shape our lives,

J John 09:09

and to trust in ourselves too, to trust that inner knowing. And that leads us to Nathaniel. He was known for his sincerity right from the beginning, even when he was skeptical at first. Nathaniel, the

S Sarah 09:21

one who was like Nazareth, really, that's him.

J John 09:24

But even though he had those initial doubts, he was drawn to how genuine Jesus was. Honesty was super important to him.

S Sarah 09:31

So how does Jesus approach that in their final exchange?

J John 09:35

It's interesting. He recognizes the power of being sincere, but he has this little caveat, sincerity is most serviceable in the work of the Kingdom when it is wedded to discretion.

S Sarah 09:46

It's like he's saying, Nathaniel, I appreciate that you're always straight with me, but even truth needs to be shared with kindness and awareness, right?



John 09:53

Like timing and delivery matter. It's not just about blurting things out, even if you mean well,



Sarah 09:58

and knowing that sometimes. Times those communication breakdowns are just inevitable. Jesus gives Nathaniel this advice. If you find yourself going off in quest of those who think as you do in that event, dedicate your life to proving that the God knowing disciple can become a Kingdom Builder even when alone in the world and wholly isolated from his fellow believers. Whoa, that's powerful.



John 10:20

It's like he's saying. Nathaniel, even if you find yourself on your own, don't underestimate the impact you can have your unique perspective. That's valuable.



Sarah 10:29

It's a good reminder for all of us who've ever felt like we don't quite fit in. Your path might be different, but that doesn't make it any less important. It's



John 10:37

like that saying Be the change you want to see in the world. You might be one person, but you can still make a difference Absolutely.



Sarah 10:44

And that brings us to our last apostle in this incredible series of farewells, Thomas, who often gets a bad rap for being the doubter. Yeah, Poor



John 10:53

Thomas always remembered for needing proof. But he wasn't just being difficult, you know?



Sarah 10:58

Oh, totally. He had a curious mind. He wanted evidence, and honestly, isn't that a good thing? Totally



John 11:04

and instead of shutting him down, Jesus actually honors that part of him. He says to Thomas, after I have gone, your brethren will the more appreciate your critical way of viewing new teachings.



Sarah 11:16

He's basically giving him permission to question, to think critically in a world where blind faith is often celebrated, that's pretty remarkable, right? It



John 11:23

really is. It's like Jesus is saying, Thomas, use your brain. Ask questions, look for evidence. Don't just take my word for it



Sarah 11:30

exactly. And it makes me think maybe there are times when we need a little bit of that Thomas energy in our own lives, like it's okay to ask questions, to want proof, to not just accept things blindly 100%



John 11:42

it's about finding that balance right between trusting your gut and being discerning, using your head. And



Sarah 11:48

you know, as we wrap up this deep dive into these really intimate moments between Jesus and his apostles, one thing that stands out to me is how much he



John 11:57

loved them, totally, unconditionally, flaws and all he saw



Sarah 12:01

their potential even when they doubted themselves, and he challenged them to love each other in that same way, to work together even when they didn't always see eye



John 12:08

to eye. It's such a powerful message, and it's not just for those 12 guys back then. It's for all of us. We all have a role to play, and we're all capable of incredible things when we come together with love and compassion.



Sarah 12:19

It's about recognizing that spark of divinity in everyone, even when it's hidden, even when it's messy. We're all part of something much bigger than ourselves, and that's something worth celebrating, something worth striving for. But.