

# Part 4, Paper 186, Just Before...ucifixion, Midwayer Commission

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Judas' betrayal, Sanhedrin's dismissal, Jesus' composure, David's pragmatism, Golgotha's cruelty, thief's recognition, Passover timing, free will, Jesus' mission, sonship with God, divine potential, human responses, cosmic significance, Jesus' death, divine nature

## SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

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**S** Sarah 00:00

Welcome to a deep dive into, well, you could say, one of the most pivotal moments in history, the events leading up to the crucifixion. Yeah, definitely a big one. We're gonna be cracking open the uron Chia book for this one. Okay, specifically paper 186 to get a more, you know, intimate look at what went down on that Friday morning. Right, right?

**J** John 00:18

Because it's always, what's always struck me about this moment is this incredible human drama, you know, kind of unfolding alongside these, these huge cosmic events, betrayal, despair, confusion, yeah, and yet, amidst all of that, a sense of something, something larger at play. It's

**S** Sarah 00:37

like a real emotional roller coaster. And it kicks off. It all kicks off with Judas, who finds himself wrestling with, well, with the weight of his betrayal, right? He hands Jesus over, expecting, what a hero's welcome. Yeah, you'd think a reward. Instead, he gets 30 pieces of silver, which is like the price of a slave, not exactly what he was hoping for. No,

**J** John 00:59

not at all. It's more than the money, though, right? Imagine the sting of the sanhedrin's dismissal. I mean, these are the religious leaders, right? These are the keepers of the faith, and they basically treat him like dirt. Yeah? You can almost feel the weight of that rejection like the

realization that he totally misjudged the situation. Yeah, no wonder he ends up in the Valley of Hinnom. Talk

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Sarah 01:20

about a deal with the devil backfiring. Talk about, you know, it really, it really highlights how easy it is to get caught up in your own agenda and kind of lose sight of the bigger picture,

J

John 01:32

absolutely. And that's what makes the contrast with Jesus so stark, right? While Judas is spiraling, Jesus is the picture of composure. He's falsely accused, he's insulted, he's threatened, yet he remains dignified, even serene. Wow. It's like he's more concerned with the people around him than with his own impending death.

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Sarah 01:51

It's like he sees right through the drama to something beyond it, and in those moments, you really get a glimpse of his divinity, yeah, his connection to something larger than himself exactly,

J

John 02:03

a level of peace and understanding that most of us, well, we can only dream of, right? Yeah, especially when you're facing those kinds of circumstances. But then you've also got this, this other fascinating reaction, okay, we see in David Zebedee, okay, talk about a proactive guy, right? Well, everyone else is paralyzed by by fear and uncertainty. David, he springs into action. David's

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Sarah 02:25

like the ultimate pragmatist. He's setting up messenger networks, like a like a one man news agency, making sure everyone's in the loop. It's almost it's almost comical, when you think about it, everyone else is deep in mourning, and David's getting a head start on planning Sunday's resurrection party. And you know

J

John 02:43

what's interesting? That's it. It speaks to a level of faith that many of the other disciples, they haven't quite grasped yet. He doesn't fully understand it, right? But when Jesus says he'll rise again on the third day, David, he takes it to heart. He's ready come Sunday for whatever happens.

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Sarah 03:01

It's a good reminder that even in those dark moments, there's always a little bit of hope, a little bit of Okay, what's next?

J

John 03:07

It's a very, I think it's a very human response to tragedy, isn't it, wanting to believe that there's something good to come. But of course, you know, not everyone shared David's optimistic outlook as we follow Jesus to Golgotha, the mood kind of shifts dramatically.

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Sarah 03:25

Yeah, you can practically feel the weight of the moment pressing down right as he's handed over to the Romans, the mocking, the, I mean, the cruelty of the crucifixion itself. It's just, it's a stark reminder of how brutal the world could be.

J

John 03:40

Yeah, and you know, crucifixion was designed to break the human spirit, right, to make an example of those who challenged Roman authority. And yet, even in the midst of that suffering, the Urantia Book describes Jesus as maintaining his composure. It's

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Sarah 03:53

incredible. There's even that incredible detail about one of the thieves crucified alongside him, the one who recognizes Jesus from previous encounters. Oh, wow, yeah. Can you imagine that? Imagine

J

John 04:04

that moment of recognition, right, even in the throes of death? I mean, it really speaks volumes about the impact Jesus had on those he encountered. Yeah, even if they weren't his devoted followers. This thief right in his final moments, seems to grasp at this, this glimmer of hope, recognizing something, you know, something powerful in the man hanging next to him. Yeah,

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Sarah 04:26

it's a powerful reminder that even the smallest interactions, right, they can have a lasting impact. And speaking of impact, the Urantia Book makes a point of clarifying something about the timing of Jesus's death, okay, that I always found so fascinating. You know how it's this common belief that Jesus's death was directly tied to Passover, right? Right, that it was some

kind of preordained sacrifice, like it was planned, right? The Urantia Book actually makes a point of clarifying that the timing is coincidental. It wasn't part of some like grand preordained cosmic plan, so

**J** John 04:58

there was no like divine. Divine timetable, no predestined sacrifice. Oh,

**S** Sarah 05:02

not, according to the Urantia Book, it was human choices, human actions, that led to his crucifixion on that specific day, which is a really, it's a really crucial point, right, because it emphasizes the role of free will, even within a story as significant as this one, right?

**J** John 05:20

Right? Free will is important. And that brings us to maybe the most thought provoking aspect of the Urantia book's take on all of this. Okay, what's that? The idea that Jesus's earthly mission, it was actually already fulfilled before his death on the cross. Wow.

**S** Sarah 05:33

So that's that's a big departure from traditional Christian theology, right? It

**J** John 05:38

really challenges the way that many of us understand Jesus' death and resurrection. I mean, for centuries, we've been taught that his death was the pivotal moment, right, the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of humanity. But the Urantia Book kind of throws a curveball, suggesting that while his death was profoundly significant, it wasn't strictly necessary for our salvation. So

**S** Sarah 05:58

if Jesus's death wasn't like the be all, end all of his mission, then, well, what was That's

**J** John 06:03

the million dollar question, right? And, and this is where the Urantia Book really seems to emphasize the importance of faith, something it calls sonship with God. Okay,

**S** Sarah 06:12

break that down for me. What does that even mean in this context, sonship with God?

**J** John 06:16

So it's about recognizing that spark of divinity within each of us, right? It's about this idea that we are all children of God, capable of experiencing that same connection, that same connection that Jesus had, okay, His life, His teachings, his very being. It was all about showing us the path to that connection.

**S** Sarah 06:33

So you're saying that his death, while a powerful symbol, it's not, it's not the only way to achieve that, right?

**J** John 06:39

It's less about like a transaction, like Jesus died for your sins, and more about this, this transformation, this inner awakening to our own potential, to our own divinity. Wow.

**S** Sarah 06:50

It's a challenge, for sure, but but an incredibly inspiring one. Yeah. As we kind of wrap up this deep dive, I keep coming back to to those contrasting reactions to Jesus's impending death. Yeah, it's fascinating. You've got Judas despair. You've got David's, like, almost comical practicality, right? It's true, yeah. And then you have Jesus focused on something, something far grander.

**J** John 07:14

It's like a microcosm of humanity, isn't it? Like faced with the unknown, and you see fear, denial. You see this strange sense of hope, yeah, all playing out against this backdrop of of cosmic significance. Yeah, it's

**S** Sarah 07:29

a good reminder that even in the face of these extraordinary events, it's, it's our individual responses, our choices that really, that really shape our experience that's powerful, and that brings us to our final thought for you to ponder today, if, if Jesus's death wasn't a necessary sacrifice, what does his life and his willingness to die in this way, what does it tell us about the nature of God, about humanity's relationship to the divine?

**J** John 07:54

Ooh, that's a big one. Yeah. That's a question that's been debated for centuries. Does it demonstrate like the boundless love of a God who, who would walk among us experiencing this, this full spectrum of human emotion and suffering, or does it highlight the potential within each of us, that capacity for selflessness, courage, unwavering faith, even when we're facing unimaginable adversity,

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Sarah 08:17

big questions, no easy answers, right? But I think by exploring these events, by diving into those motivations, the reactions of everyone involved, we gain this, this deeper understanding, not just of history, but but of ourselves precisely.

J

John 08:31

And that's the power of a deep dive like this. You know, it's not just about accumulating information, right? It's about grappling with these complex ideas, yeah, challenging our assumptions, and ultimately emerging with a with a more nuanced understanding of ourselves and the universe around us, beautifully

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Sarah 08:44

said And on that note, we'll leave you to contemplate those, those really profound cold runs till next time. Keep diving deep and and keep asking those big questions.