

Part 4, Paper 191, Appearances...stles and, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

crucifixion aftermath, apostles' grief, personal appearances, Jesus's comfort, Peter's guilt, Thomas's doubt, resurrection promises, mission assignment, love and service, morontia form, physical proof, faith journey, diverse reactions, enduring message, unwavering belief

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

S Sarah 00:00
All right, get ready, because we are diving head first into some serious history today. Definitely we're talking about the aftermath of the crucifixion, that whole chaotic scene, right? But hold on to your hats, folks, because we're not just rehashing the old Resurrection Story. Everyone knows. Oh yeah, you sent over these fascinating excerpts from the Urantia Book, and let me tell you these firsthand accounts, they paint a whole new picture, a different perspective, totally. So picture this. It's Sunday. Jerusalem's buzzing with grief, confusion,

 00:34
you name it, heavy, heavy stuff,

S Sarah 00:37
the apostles are holed up, scared out of their minds, understandably. So this wasn't just like losing a leader, right? Their whole world just imploded, like the rug was pulled out from under them. Exactly. Think about it. Three years they're seeing miracles left and right, experiencing the divine alongside Jesus. Yeah, and

J John 00:55
suddenly, nothing, silence. It's

S Sarah 00:59

no wonder the Urantia Book talks about Peter drowning in guilt, second guessing every little thing. It's so

J John 01:05

relatable, though, isn't it? Oh, absolutely. That human need for a sign that desperation, when you feel like you've messed up big time, it's so raw, and then you've got Thomas off in his own world, overthinking everything,

i 01:17

right? Like what was going through his head all those hours they were close to Jesus,

i 01:22

you know, more than just followers. This wasn't some casual fan club, exactly. They

S Sarah 01:26

debated with him, argued, laughed, years of that bond and

J John 01:30

poof gone, just like that. And the messenger system they were so used to for guidance, for communication, really

S Sarah 01:38

gone too. It's like suddenly being stranded without

i 01:40

a map or a compass, completely untethered. Okay, so

S Sarah 01:43

everyone's a mess, coping in their own way, grief. Does that know? But even in that darkness, there are these sparks of hope, right? Glimmers like John holding on to Jesus's promises about resurrection like a lifeline. Faith is an anchor, and James always the man of action, ready to march to the tomb and get some answers.



John 02:02

It's fascinating how their personalities really come through, even in grief. You know, it's true. Nathaniel, urging caution, maybe even diving into some deep theological debate. It's like



Sarah 02:12

a microcosm of how people deal with loss even today, absolutely searching for meaning, for answers. And little



John 02:18

did they know, things were about to get a whole lot



02:23

livelier. You could say, oh, this is where it gets good. Because



John 02:26

while they're wrestling with their doubts, Jesus starts



02:30

showing up, not just a quick peek a boo, I'm back either. Oh, no. We're



John 02:33

talking a full on series of encounters, vivid,



Sarah 02:35

detailed, like something out of this world.



John 02:38

They add a whole other dimension to the resurrection story



02:41

completely.

S

Sarah 02:42

And what gets me is how personal each appearance is tailored, almost like he knew exactly what each person, each group, needed to hear. It's incredible. Take his first appearance to Peter, okay, the Urantia Book puts him in a garden, maybe looking for some peace, some quiet, makes sense. And then, boom, Jesus appears, not with the scolding either, no, but with comfort, with forgiveness, directly

J

John 03:05

addressing Peter's denial, that gut wrenching guilt and reminding him of his purpose.

S

Sarah 03:10

Like, Hey, I know you messed up, but I still believe in you

J

John 03:13

powerful stuff. It's like a huge weight lifted off his shoulders, you know, totally.

S

Sarah 03:18

And this whole idea of facing your fears, choosing faith over freaking out, finding peace in the middle of a storm.

J

John 03:25

It's a running theme throughout all these post resurrection appearances. It's like

S

Sarah 03:29

a master class in handling tough times. Absolutely. And it's not just a one on one with Peter. No, the Urantia Book takes us to that scene, you know, the one where Jesus appears to all the apostles gathered together? Oh yeah, they're still hiding out terrified. You

J

John 03:45

can practically feel the fear in that room.



03:48

And then, bam, there he is, right



Sarah 03:50

in the middle of it all.



John 03:51

It's no big deal. But get this,



Sarah 03:52

they don't even recognize him at first. Really, they're so shaken up. Wow. Think about that. The people who knew Jesus best inside and out. They ate with him, traveled with him exactly. They'd seen it, all the miracles, the teaching,



John 04:06

and they're totally thrown by seeing him again. It's



04:10

like their brains just couldn't process it makes you think about death, resurrection, the whole thing, like it changes everything, even how you see someone completely rewired your perception. So there they are freaking out and Jesus being Jesus, he's just so cool about it, Calm in the Chaos. He gently calls them out on their doubt like a good teacher, reminding them of the lessons. And then this is



Sarah 04:32

where it gets interesting. He gives them their mission. Okay, here we go. Go spread the good news. He says, classic, but he's not talking about preaching doom and gloom. No, he's talking about love, about serving others, a



John 04:45

new way of being in the world, exactly. And it's radical, especially back then. How so religion? It was all about power, lineage, who you knew? Right? Right? Flips the script.

—

 Sarah 04:55
He's like, Nope. It's about what's in your heart,

 John 04:57
how you treat people, compassionate. Action. That's the real deal,

 05:01
okay, but hold on, we can't forget about Thomas. Oh yeah, Doubting Thomas, while all

 Sarah 05:06
this is happening, he's off doing his own thing. The Urantia Book really digs into his skepticism. He's not just asking questions. He's demanding proof. It's like he needs to see it to believe it. He's practically daring Jesus to show up. That's bold. And you know what? I kind of respect that me too. He's not just following the crowd, even if it's his closest friends. He's sticking

 John 05:28
to his guns, even if those guns are loaded with doubt. Exactly. So

 05:32
a whole week goes by, a whole

 Sarah 05:33
week the other apostles, they're buzzing about their encounters, the awe, the renewed sense of purpose, and Thomas, Thomas is stewing, picking apart their stories, letting that doubt simmer. He's got a lot to unpack, and he finally cracks. What does he do? He tells the others flat out, I won't believe it unless I see him with my own eyes, touch his wounds myself.

 John 05:55
Wow. He's drawing a line in the sand. Talk about a challenge. So what happens next?

 Sarah 06:00
It's like he's calling Jesus's bluff, almost right. Talk

J John 06:03
about high stakes.

S Sarah 06:04
So there they are, all gathered again. The tensions so thick you could cut it with a knife,

J John 06:08
and Thomas is standing firm, waiting for a sign,

S Sarah 06:12
and then, bam, just as Thomas lays down the law, something wild happens. What?

J John 06:17
What happens? Tell me,

S Sarah 06:19
Jesus in His morontia form just materializes right there in the room with them. Hold on merantia form, yeah, for those of us who haven't cracked open the Urantia Book, what exactly does that mean?

J John 06:30
Good point. It's a bit of Urantia lingo. Lay it on us. Basically, merantia refers to the state of being that bridges the material and spiritual worlds. Okay? It's how beings like Jesus can interact with us, regular folks, even after

S Sarah 06:44
death. So like a temporary physical body

J John 06:47
kind of, yeah, think of it as a way for them to make contact wild. Okay,

Sarah 07:32

He looks at Thomas and he says, You have believed Thomas because you have really seen and heard me. Blessed are those in the ages to come who will believe, even though they have not seen with the eye of flesh nor heard with the mortal ear. Chills.

J John 07:48

Yeah, right. It's like he's talking to everyone who's ever struggled with doubt, exactly.

S Sarah 07:53

And it's not just about blind faith either, right? It's deeper than that. He is acknowledging that sometimes we need that physical proof that Seeing is believing thing. But he's also saying that faith, true faith, it goes beyond that.

J John 08:06

It's about trusting even when you haven't seen it with your own two eyes Exactly. And think about

S Sarah 08:10

it. This is Thomas, who knew Jesus better than almost anyone, right? He wasn't some random skeptic, and yet even he needed that confirmation. Just makes the whole thing so much more relatable, doesn't it? Totally we all have our Thomas moments, those times when we just need a little something extra to solidify that belief

J John 08:29

Absolutely. And the Urantia Book, it doesn't shine away from that. It embraces it.

S Sarah 08:32

It shows that doubt. It's not the enemy of faith. Sometimes it's the pathway. Okay, so Thomas has his big aha moment.

J John 08:39

What happens next? Does Jesus stick around? You

S Sarah 08:42

know, what's amazing is that Thomas's story, it's not even the end of it.



John 08:46

There's more. Oh, yeah, the



Sarah 08:47

Urantia Book goes on to describe all these other appearances in different places, different cultures, really like where one that really stands out is this gathering in Alexandria. Alexandria,



John 08:57

that's a long way from Jerusalem,



Sarah 09:00

right? Like Jesus was intentional about spreading his message far and wide. It wasn't just a local thing for him, exactly. And what's interesting is that this appearance, it happens right after a messenger from Jerusalem shows up. Talk about timing, right? And this messenger, he's telling everyone about the crucifixion, whoa, heavy stuff.



09:19

Imagine hearing that news, trying to process it all, and then, bam, Jesus himself shows up. It's



Sarah 09:24

almost too much to handle, no kidding,



John 09:27

but it makes you think, how did people react to that, seeing Jesus alive after hearing he was crucified? That's



Sarah 09:34

a great question. And you know, the Urantia Book, it kind of suggests that all those different reactions, the shock, the disbelief, even the skepticism, they were all part of the experience. It's like Jesus wasn't trying to create these cookie cutter followers. You



J John 09:47
wanted people to grapple with it, to come to their own understanding exactly

S Sarah 09:50
because ultimately, it's not about fitting into some predefined box of belief.

J John 09:56
It's about taking those core principles of love, of service. And

S Sarah 10:00
figuring out how they resonate in your own life. And

J John 10:02
let me tell you, that's no easy task. It's

S Sarah 10:05
a lifelong journey, right? But that's what makes it so meaningful, absolutely

J John 10:08
and it's something we can all connect to, even today. So

S Sarah 10:12
much to unpack from these resurrection accounts, it really makes you think, doesn't it? It does from the depths of despair to these incredible encounters and that enduring message of hope and love, a message

J John 10:23
that's still relevant today, all these centuries later, it makes you

S Sarah 10:27
wonder, what would it take for us to have that same unwavering faith? What would it take for

us to really believe?



John 10:34

It's a question worth pondering for sure. Well, folks,



Sarah 10:37

we've covered a lot of ground today, journeyed through doubt fear and ultimately to the transformative power of belief. It's



10:45

been quite the deep dive. It has



Sarah 10:47

big thanks to you for joining us on this exploration of the Urantia book's resurrection narrative.



John 10:51

Always a pleasure to chat with you and



Sarah 10:53

to all of you listening. Keep those questions coming. Keep exploring, keep the conversation going until next time.