

Episode 16 (Exposé 24): A Kingdom Son or Slave

Anchor Lady: Good day everyone. We feel privileged to connect to you today sharing the moment of exposition with you. So, how are you today? How is your weekend? Then...the end of the week. Today, we started off with the background story of the...elder brother and thought we have a kind of start so we hope it will gain a momentum this...today as we look into that of the elder brother's story. Well, yesterday, I thought we were all just going through the elder brother's story...but we just find the story of the father again in it...we saw the father again. If you follow yesterday, we saw the father again...was out...just like he was out calling the younger son home...we saw that he was out...he was...he was very very forthcoming. We saw the father coming out...very forthcoming...waiting for the son...for the elder son to...trying to bring him out. So, we saw this nature of the father repeated again in the elder brother's story and there are so many issues.

Yesterday, we saw that he has anger in him and he gave the reason why he was angry. He felt he had labour...and then there was something yesterday that I think the...the hallmark for me yesterday was the elder son...the philosophy of the elder son...thinking that the giving of the father is based on the labour...so because he came up with points saying, *he's been doing this...he's been doing this, he never transgressed...* yet he doesn't understand the giving of the father. What the giving of the father is tied to? And if you remember yesterday, Peter was trying to lead us into James...telling us what the giving of the father is about. Because I know some people are just like that...the elder brother thinking the giving of the father is tied to how much of work, the labour of their hands, the toils...their own givings but we found out in that James, he reminded us that he gives liberally. He gives without finding **fault**. So, I think...let me...I have done enough of talking about it...really once you get about it, you want to go back into that episode and listen...have a listen again.

So, today we'll continue with the elder brother, we still want to know more about this elder brother.

Peter: Yeah...

Now, thank you viewers. Thank you for joining us. Right from yesterday, the juncture where we stopped was looking at the elder son who got confused and became angry at the father that he seemed not to understand how he actually chose to give because here was the younger son who actually wasted his father's resources and the father was going to...you know, the father already killed a calf and was celebrating the younger son. And the elder son was wondering why he was left out and then today we will carry on with this. And there is something I want us to...our viewers to come into today as we look at this episode today. Erm...this elder son (mark the words 'elder son') ...there's the word 'son' after the word 'elder' so he is a son and we know that.

Now, if you're listening to this episode and you are a Christian and you are born of God, you need to know that just being a Christian is not a procedure that happened to you...it's not just some kind of method or some kind of...title. It's deeper than that. John chapter 1 actually told us about the fact that Jesus came home and his home did not receive him and *to many that received him and believed on his name, he gave them the right of being called the son of God*. So what happens at new birth, what happens at becoming a Christian beyond just the title Christian is that fact that you have received the right of sonship and the book of Romans 8 tells us that we have received the spirit of sonship into our heart by which we cry *Abba Father*. So, Christianity is all about transforming from being somebody who was born of the flesh or somebody who had a natural descent...you have become the son of God. So, I want

you to begin to picture yourself as a son of this father if you are truly born of God. The elder son is a son of the father. Now that been said, he approached the father was he was confused about the basis upon which his father will give things to his...children. Because he said two things to the father, he said, *I have laboured, I have served you all this while*. That's the first thing and the second thing is, *I made sure I kept the rules...the laws down to the letter and I expected on that basis*...Now if you...if the elder son was doing all these things, the question you want to figure out is why did he do that? why is it that he made sure that he didn't break any single regulations of the father...

Anchor Lady: ...why was he that careful...

Peter: ...and why was he labouring? Don't forget that if you want to look at this father's labouring...think about the fact that when the younger son was being celebrated, the elder son was in the field. So actually, he was taking care of the family's agricultural enterprise...he was in the field so he was right when he said, he was labouring...

Anchor Lady: ...and if it was wrong, the father would have corrected him...

Peter: ...yeah. He...in fact, they said, he was in the field when they began celebrating the younger son, he was at work...

Anchor Lady: ...they should give him credit for that, he was actually true to what he said. He's been labouring...he has never transgressed and the father would have objected and said, *no, sometimes you transgress*...

Peter: ...that's the thing. I want to find out why is he doing all these?

Anchor Lady: ...it seems to be a good thing...

Peter: ...but there has to be a motivation for why the elder son is doing all these. And I was looking for this and if you look at that story in Luke chapter 15, you will find out that he actually gave the father the reason why he has been doing all these things all his life. Now, we don't even know how old he is...he could be 25 as at the time of this story...he could be 30. Jesus did not tell us his age but he has been doing all these things and what's the reason for that.

If you look carefully at Luke 15 verse 29, he told us the reason. He said, *you never gave me a young goat to celebrate with my friends*. Now listen...now we know why he's been doing all these things. He's saying the reason why he's kept these rules and he has laboured all this while was because...so that there'll be a basis for the father to at least give him something...a young goat. Now, that's amazing...that's mindboggling. This elder son is saying the reason why he has gone to all these lengths was so that he could have a basis to even demand something from the father...as in young goat.

Anchor Lady: Mmm...

Peter: Now, this is quite...something quite thoughtful and insightful and the reason why he was angry then was because there was the younger son who got a calf killed on his behalf...

Anchor Lady: ...the fattest calf!

Peter: ...and who has not been as careful as the elder son was and he actually became angry. Now you see, this is where the whole problem is and I said, if you are listening to this and you are a son which the

Bible says you are if you are born of Christ. John 1 says *you are a son*, Romans 8 says *you are a son*. Then you need to come to the same thought process of this elder son. On what basis...on what basis did the younger son have the fattest calf been killed on his behalf? And don't forget this elder son has done all he has been doing all his life so that the father can give him...so that the father can give him. And this talks to us in the kingdom...who believe the father should owe us or give us not just on the basis. Now you see, there is something that comes to mind...why did the younger son have the fattest calf been killed on his behalf? Because he was a son...just because he was a son. Just because he was born of the father. That's...now see the father's response and I want you to listen to what the father told the elder son. Now please read what the father...now if you look at verse 31 of Luke chapter 15, the response of the father to the son is quite amazing. The father said, *my son*...the father said, *you are always...with me*.

Anchor Lady: See they started with *my son*...is that the identity...

Peter: ...he said, *my son*...

Anchor Lady: ...maybe he has forgotten...

Peter: ...you don't need to...the reason for labouring. Now listen, don't get us wrong on this Exposé...we have not come here to say it's wrong to labour...

Anchor Lady: ...to belittle labour...

Peter: ...in fact, the Bible says...*do not be slothful in business*...that's what the Bible says. It says, *do not be slothful in business, fervent in the spirit serving the Lord*. Now Jesus said himself that *must I not be about my father's business*. Now the Bible says, *do not be lazy but imitators of them who through faith and patience obtain the promise*. We do not belittle the power of being consistently labouring in the kingdom...we do not belittle that...

Anchor Lady: We have instances of the scriptures...that supports labour...

Peter: ...we got to labour, labour in the Word, labour in the place of prayer, labour in this and that...in the things of the kingdom and we do not belittle the fact of making you walk in the light of the Word...making sure that you keep the Word of the Lord. Jesus said that *if you love*...the bible says that *if you love me* (that's 1st John 5) Jesus said, *if you love me, you will keep my commandments* and the Bible says *if we love him, we will keep his commandments*. We are not belittling following God's commandments and we are belittling labouring in God's kingdom but what we belittle is the motivation, the basis, the reason for why you do what you do in the kingdom. Why do you pray? Why do you study the Bible? Why do you do evangelism?

Anchor Lady: ...why do you give?

Peter: Why do you give? Why do you execute your spiritual activities? Now, the motivation is what we are talking about. Now, the elder son thought these were going to be the basis why the Father should give him. Now, see what the Father said; the Father said, *My son, you are always with me*... What does that mean? You see, the scripture says to us, it says that Jesus said *Whoever commits sin is a slave to sin*... That's what Jesus said. And He said *The slave is not in the house forever*... And he said *A son is in the house forever*. So when the Father told him and said, *my son, you are with me forever*... He's saying,

Come on, you are a son... Only sons can be in the house forever. He's still trying to tell him, What are you talking about? You are saying I couldn't give you a young goat; you are a son! You are a son!—

Anchor Lady: ...and you are in the house!

Peter: erm, you see... if you are in the house... Now, that's why the Bible says... it says, *A son is in the house forever; a slave is not in the house forever.* So what the Father told him in the verse 31st and said *You are in the house forever; you are always with me, you are a son!* The Father was trying to tell him, *the only basis why you can get a young goat is simply the fact that you are a son.* Now, look at what He said there; He said to him, *And everything I have is yours!* So look, you don't need to tell me that you need to tell me that you need to labour...you need to keep every regulation because you want a young goat? Everything I have is yours! You don't need any amount of labouring in the kingdom. You don't need any amount of keeping the rules in the kingdom as the basis for why God must answer your prayers, Now...

Anchor Lady: ...to get something from Him...

Peter: Listen, like I said, don't get it wrong. We didn't say you shouldn't labour in the kingdom; in fact, in some of our next series, we will talk about the motivation for righteousness, the motivation for labouring in the kingdom; the motivation for doing things right. There's a motivation for that. It's a wrong motivation for you to think you can propel God or you can turn the hand of God or you can make God do what God did before in Christ. Now, let's clarify that; it's very important. Now, my question is, If this Father is as benevolent as we see Him to be to the younger son—the younger son who wasted his Father's inheritance, the father killed a young calf for him on his return back home and they celebrated the younger son—if this Father is that benevolent, and this Father is simply saying to the elder son that everything I have is yours and you are a son and you are in the house forever... then I need to ask the question, how come the son had no access to a young goat? How come a young goat has not been killed for him and his friends as he said? Because, you see, he's painting a picture—the elder son—he's painting a picture of the Father that is very bad. He said, *You have not given me...* Now, look at that word; the elder son said *You have not given me...* and the Father said what?

Anchor Lady: ...all things are yours! (Chorused)

Peter: ...all things are yours! Now, who is confused here? There's...something is wrong here. There's a kind of dichotomy going on. There's a clash going on here, because the father said to the son—to the elder son—the Father said, *All things are yours...*

Anchor Lady: xxxxxxxx

Peter: ...and the elder son is saying *You have not given me...*

Anchor Lady: so, where is the problem?

Peter: There is a breakdown of communication here...

Anchor Lady: ...there's misunderstanding here...

Peter: ...Now, understanding, you can see it happening between God and many Christians. You can see it happening between God and so many Christians—a breakdown of communication between God and so many Christians, because so many Christians are there saying *Father, give me this; give me joy, give*

me peace, give me this blessing, give me that progress, give me...this benefit. We keep asking God, Give me this and give me that...

Anchor Lady: ...and the Father keeps saying...

Peter: And the Father keeps saying like he said to the elder son, *You know what? All things are—*

Anchor Lady:...*you are son!*...

Peter:*You are a son...*

Anchor Lady:*you are with Me...*

Peter:*You are with me and all things...*

Anchor Lady:*are yours!*

Peter:*Are yours!* Now, we are here today to link that divide.

Anchor Lady: Yes. To bridge that gap in understanding.

Peter: To bridge that gap in understanding...that has kept this elder son in the house trying to make efforts to ensure that...

Anchor Lady: ...to earn a goat!

Peter: ...to earn a goat...

Anchor Lady: ...and he has not done enough...

Peter: and he has still not even got to the point of grabbing the goat, and the younger son who has not been as near-perfect, is the one...

Anchor Lady: ...who was wasteful...

Peter: he wasted the Father's resources... was the one that got...

Anchor Lady: ...the fattest calf, not even a young goat.

Peter: the fattest calf, and that's the reason why the elder brother was really angry. Now, let's say this: what the father told him was accurate. The Father told him that *All things are yours!* And that's the thing we've said in the past. The Bible says, *We have been blessed with ALL spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus...* (chorused with anchor lady). God will not bless us, in fact, the KJV version says '*hath*' H-A-T-H. It said, *God has blessed us.* God is not in the process of blessing us, He's not saying that...

Anchor Lady: ...if you do that, He will bless us in a matter of time...

Peter: if you act well, He will bless you in a matter of time... *He HATH blessed us.* And we know the verse that says (chorused with Anchor Lady) *His divine power has given us ALL THINGS that has to do with life and godliness...* Not 'some of the things, not 50% of the things; *All things that has to do with life and godliness.* So, it means that if the Father told the elder son that *All things are yours,* the only reason why he has not had a young goat in his life is because he is not taking it.

Anchor Lady: Yeah...

Peter:He is not receiving it. He is not receiving it. He's not taking it. He's got nothing to do with the Father; it's because the elder son is not taking what the father said is his, and he is going all about trying to do what we call—

Anchor Lady:—slaving...

Peter:'religion!'. That's religion.

Anchor Lady: Working out for it...

Peter:That's religion. It means he's trying to slave out—

Anchor Lady:—work for it—

Peter:—He's trying to work for it—

Anchor Lady:—earn it—

Peter:—what belongs to him purely on the basis of sonship. That's why the Father told him, *You are in the house forever, why are you talking like this? You are talking like a slave! I mean, You are in the house forever, you are a son! And all things I have it is yours!* And this is what we must have in kingdom mindedness—that all things that the Father has—in fact the bible calls us JOINT-HEIRS with Christ! That's a serious word. It's saying that we are co-heirs. It means h-e-i-r-s—co-heirs. It means, whatever the Father will grant His Son because of the Son's obedience—everything He gave Jesus, everything that Jesus deserves with His name... You know, the name of Jesus deserves a lot?! The Bible says *Though He was a son—that's Jesus—He learnt obedience by the things that He suffered.* And because of what Jesus went through—the process and procedures that He went through,

Anchor Lady:—perfect obedience!

Peter:—Jesus earned a lot of things. His name earned so many things for Him. In fact, Philippians 2 tells us that because of His suffering, *...and He became obedient to the point of death, the death on the cross, wherefore (chorused) the father has given Him a name...*

Anchor Lady:He earned the name! Hmmm...

Peter:Jesus earned it. Jesus paid the price for it...

Anchor Lady:huh huh...

Peter:And the bible now tells us *We are co-heirs!*

Anchor Lady:—we just have it transferred...

Peter:It means to say that whatever Jesus deserved, the Bible says you deserve the same. But Jesus got it because He paid for it; He earned it. But you have the right to the same level of inheritance and benefit that Christ deserved because of His lifestyle. Now, if the Bible say we do deserve it, how then can we be like this elder son who is going to say *You did not give me.*

That you see, you see, You see that *You-did-not-give-me* accusation in the prayers of many Christians. All you need to do is just to listen to the prayer points. The prayer point says something like, *Father this year, I mean, errm, before the year runs to an end, you've got to give me this. Don't look at me like this... Don't let the year go without you doing something about my case...* Those are prayers that are simply coding and telling God, *You've not given me.*

Anchor Lady:hmmm...

Peter:Prayers that keep saying, *Lord, you know what...—*

Anchor Lady:—elder brother's prayers—

Peter:*...Next year, or the coming year; I don't want next year to look like this year... Father do something... Don't look at me like this... Among my friends, among my peers... When you say those things in prayers, you have just put on the emblem of the elder son. You are saying Father; you know what?—*

Anchor Lady:—you have not gotten the...

Peter:—*the reason I am what I am today, the reason I am in my situation is because You have not given me...*

Anchor Lady:Some do even go further to say *"I've done this..."* just like the elder son. They have justification...for that kind of prayer...

Peter: (laughs) Thank you for making reference to that. Some even tell the Father, and say *Father, you know what? Unlike my friends, I've lived a good life, I've sacrificed my time, I've never transgressed and evangelise to ten people in the last few months... I've actually brought 3 people to church even though I was very busy, I did it...*

Anchor Lady:they have several reasons why they should earn...

Peter:And they give God several basis and say *God, please You need to do this in my life on that basis.* You see, once you do that, you keep accusing a loving Father that He didn't give you. The Father's response to you... and you see, there's one thing that comes to mind and I think every Christian should know this. The fact is I don't know how long this elder son has been in this darkness of thinking...

Anchor Lady:yes...

Peter:We don't know how long was stuck...was stuck on this kind of mentality. We don't know how long he was stuck on it. It could have been 5, 10 or 15 years. But my question is, how so? And if the father knew that everything was his and all he could do was take it, Now the question is, why hasn't the Father...

Anchor Lady:just throw it at him...

Peter: just push it on his head and say, *Come on, you are a son! This is your young goat!* And you are wondering, why? Why didn't the father do something like that? And you see, what comes to mind is simply the fact that giving is the Father's business; Receiving is our business. The Father will never receive for you. So that's where the whole point is. giving is the Father's business; Receiving is your own responsibility. That's why...Ephesians 2 tells us, *For by grace are ye saved through faith.* You see, Grace is God's business, Faith is your own responsibility to respond to what God has done. Look, there's nothing ...See, if you refuse to take, to accept—

Anchor Lady:—what is yours—

Peter:—and receive the fact that you are a son, and if I'm a son, all things the Father has is mine—that's verse 31—and I'm going to take the young goat; unless you walk in that understanding, you will just be in the Father's house and everybody will have a fatted calf, and you'll be grumbling and complaining about why you don't have a young goat when all the time, all things were yours!

Anchor Lady: hmmm... I think it's been great, because we could go on and on on this...till the end of the day, but I just want people to have enough time to really think about it. I think this part of the story is really bringing more questions than answers, so we try to... because now, we've started trying to question in our mind, why would the Father not throw it at him? But we started off that...

Peter: yeah...hmmm

Anchor Lady: So we hope that next Saturday, 7pm, you will join us as we continue in this series. I hope you are keeping all these things in mind and you are thinking about it yourself and see where...where do you stand? Are you the kind of person that you are earning what is already given...or you have forgotten that you are a son

Peter: trying...trying to get...trying to get what has been given...hmmm

Anchor Lady: earning it...and working for it. You know, working for what has already been given... or you have forgotten that you are a son, you know, and that shapes your relationship with The father, thinking, you must earn and I think that's why the Father was starting to address him and calling him, *You are a son...* because he was just thinking like a slave, like a servant that needs to earn his wages, that needs to earn his pay, earn the fattest calf, so try to remind... I hope you will be remembered... reminded today that you are a son as long as you have given your life to Christ, you are a son.

Peter: ...the right of sonship

Anchor Lady: Even if you will not remember anything today, just remember you are a son—

Peter: and that accords you a lot of rights in the kingdom.

Anchor Lady: So many things have been said today, so many gems. So just take your...take your time out to think about this and listen to this again. So we hope to see you next Saturday. So stay, and enjoy your sonship. So byeeeee

Peter: byeeee (chorused)