

Episode 18 (Exposé 26): What Manner of Man?

Anchor Lady: Hello viewers, we are back again and this is Exposé 247. We will like to invite you again tonight to dine with us as we go deeper in the Prodigal father series. We do like to remind our audience where we stopped yesterday for those who have forgotten or for those who are joining us for the very first time.

Peter: Now, viewers all over the world, welcome to Exposé 247 where we shine the light on Christ. Now, yesterday, we actually began to explore the response that the Father gave to the elder son. The Father...the elder son accused the Father of the fact that the Father wasn't good enough to have given him a young goat to celebrate with his friends and we explored the response of the Father, because we thought if the elder son complained about not having a young goat...to celebrate with his friends, I was...we were looking to see what kind of response the Father would give to him. And the only response the Father had for the elder son was, *You should know that all things are yours*. And we began to explore the implication of the Father's response...and I think, one thing stands sure for every Christian who is concerned in the place of prayer...you are concerned that it seems that people are getting the benefits in the place of prayer and you seem to be left out, or you think you've actually paid the price as a Christian; you think you've laboured, you think you've prayed enough, you think you've studied your bible enough, you think you've evangelised enough, you think you've actually served God enough... and it seems that you are not getting that benefit that you think you should get. The response that the Father gave the elder son should be of concern to you. That's what we began to explore yesterday on Exposé.

Anchor Lady: As I know, we went to the story of the... in Acts, chapter 3...

Peter: Yeah, we went to Acts chapter 3...

Anchor Lady: ...to the story of the man

Peter: yeah... exactly. In Acts 3, we explored... you know...where we found out that Peter and John could not do anything to do the man by the gate 'Beautiful'. He was there until they said emphatically that *What we have, we give unto you...* and the man rose up. *In the name of Jesus...* and the man came up, I mean... from being a lame person. So we could see the power and the potency of a child of God, of a son of God who is not waiting and blaming the Father for what the Father said He gave but for a son of God who knows what the Father gave, who has a confidence in what the Father gave and who was ready to express what the Father gave and I think this is always a kind of deadlock between a Father and His son; between God and us. Because most times, we tend to hold God responsible for things that happen in our lives whereas God is holding us responsible for not acknowledging enough all the good things we have in Christ Jesus. This so far we've explored yesterday on this series.

Anchor Lady: Yeah... so we'll like to go on today in this story

Peter: yeah...

Anchor Lady: so... would you kick off with...

Peter: Yeah, I mean... yeah, today, we will be looking at the same Luke 15:29-32. If you are just joining us, now, there's something we are gonna look at today. You see, the reason... because you, you're wondering, why would the Father in Luke 15:31 tell the elder son what is obvious. If you notice, the Father told the son that *You are my son, you are always in the house and all that I have is yours...* you'll think that the response the Father gave the elder son was a pretty obvious response

Anchor Lady: that the son should have xxxxx

Peter: because the son should have known that he is a son of the Father. You don't need your Father to tell you that you are His son.

Anchor Lady: hmmmm

Peter: You don't need your Father to tell you that He gave birth to you. Now, when the Father told the elder son in Luke 15:31 that *You are my son and all things I have is yours*, it means He was telling him what was obvious. Now, we want to explore and find out; why is it that this wasn't pretty obvious to the elder son? Now, the reason is simple... it's because the experience of the elder son didn't actually match the reality of the fact that he is a son of the Father. Do you know why? He never had a young goat. Now, because his experience did not match what was his position to the Father, now, he didn't actually have any confidence in that position

Anchor Lady: hmmmm

Peter: and I think this is the point where so many Christians are today... Now, the reason why so many Christians have lost confidence in the reality of who they are in Christ; why they have lost confidence in their reality, why they have lost confidence in knowing that all things that the Father has is theirs is because our experience does not seem to match that reality. And this is the mistake that we make; we end up trying to interpret the scripture based on our experience. This is the problem with so many Christians. Instead of allowing our experience to match up with the reality of the scriptures; what we do is that we bring down the scriptures to our experience. And the Bible says in Romans chapter 3:3-4, it says *Let every man be a liar, but let God be true*. Now, this is the reality; it means that it doesn't matter who your experience is; it doesn't matter what is happening to you. The bible says if your experience does not line up with the word of God, let your experience be a liar.

Anchor Lady: hmmmmm

Peter: Your experience cannot make God's Word to be a liar. Now, this is why so many Christians have lost confidence in the reality of their sonship because we look at our lives; we look at our situation and say, *I don't even have a young goat... how can I be a son of this Father?* And this is why the elder son questioned his Father and said *You have not given me...*

Anchor Lady:he question his paternal xxxxxx...

Peter: He questioned... I mean, *You have not given me...* I mean, *Are You this good?* Because... you know why He was confused? Because the Father gave a calf to the younger son

Anchor Lady:fatted calf

Peter:a fat calf to the young son who had even broken the Father's law; who had actually gone out and wasted the Father's inheritance... Now, when the elder son found out that the Father was this generous to the younger son who has wasted his inheritance, in the parable of Luke 15, this was why he began to question the Father... question the goodness of the Father. And as the elder son, he said *You've not given me any young goat...* Now, you see, what we need to look at today is, *What does happen...What would you do as a child of God if you notice that the reality of your situation does not match (or line up) the fact that the Father is claiming that you are His son and the Father is saying that 'Everything I have is yours'?* That's what we are looking at today. And you see, before we progress with the scriptures today, I want to make one fact known to you. Now, if you want to actually come out of any situation you are in at the moment, you need to understand this reality. You know, there's one thing that Jonah said in chapter 3 when he was in the belly of the whale—of the fish—Jonah said something... Jonah said, *Those that observe lying vanities, they forsake their mercy.* Now, what I'm simply saying is, *Anything...* the bible says *let God be true* like I said, *every man be a liar.* We need to look at the reality. If the Father said we are His son and everything that we have—everything that He has is ours—if this is not a reality in our lives, we need to check up the facts. We need to check up what is the reality. Why is it that we don't experience this? Now, to start with, we need to understand that God is called "The Father of Spirits." Now, I'll say this again... Hebrews chapter 12 said *God is the Father of spirits.* You know in John 4, it said *God is Spirit, and they that must worship God must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.* When you became born again, when you became born, I mean, again as a Christian, the bible says in John chapter 3 that you were born of the Spirit. You were not born of the flesh.

Anchor Lady:huh huh

Peter:John chapter one also tells us that those that receive Christ, He give them the right to be called the sons of God. Now, not those that are born of the flesh; not those who are born of blood; not those who are born of natural descent but those who were born of God—born of the Spirit. So you need to understand that when you became 'a son of God', God became a 'Father of Spirit'. That's why Hebrews 12 says *God is the father of Spirits.* God is not 'Father of the flesh' because you were born... you see, according to the flesh, you were born by your earthly parents. Your earthly parents are your parents according to the flesh. God becomes your Father according to the Spirit. So, when God speaks to you that He is your father and everything that He has is yours, God is talking to your born again, recreated spirit. He's not talking to your flesh; He's not talking to your body; He's talking to your born again recreated spirit. And when God says that *All I have is Yours,* He's saying *All I have, I've put it in you in your*

spirit. Now, listen... when it comes to the spirit, this where we have a problem. Now, for example, if I ask you a question at the moment, *Do you believe that if you are a child of God, you have angels all around you?* The bible says that *the angels of the Lord encamp round them that fear Him*. Do you know you have angels all around you? But do you see them? You don't see them. There is a reality called 'Spiritual Realm'; it's as real as the physical realm. It is as real as the realm of the... as the realm of the natural. Now, the bible says that the angels of God are all around you. Now, the bible talks about... that so many things that God has given to us and these things are in the realm of the spirit. And if these are in the realm of the spirit, how do we find out that they exist? How do we know if they exist or not? For example, all the things in the natural... How do you know there are mountains? How do you know there are seas and oceans? How do you know there are buildings? It's because you can see them with your eyes. How do you know there's a smell in the atmosphere? Because you have nose to smell them. How do you know there is sound? You have ears to hear them. Now, how do you know these things in the natural? You have to see them for you to understand things that are in the realm of the natural. So also in the realm of the Spirit, if God is the Father of Spirits and He has given us all things in Christ, all things that we have... all things that God has is ours but if God is the Father of Spirits, it means we have to have the sense by which we can actually see things and pick them up in the Spirit. And how would that happen? This is why some things that should be obvious—this is why some things that should be real to us are not that real because we talk on this natural plain, we reason on this natural plain. Now, let's look into this. How do we know—if the father says to the Elder son, *All things are yours*—How do we know how to hold on to this? How can this become real to me?

Anchor Lady:How true is this?

Peter: How true is this? How do I know if it is true or not? I need to look through the sight of God. I need to look through God's perception. Now, follow us to Hebrews chapter 4. This is where we are gonna start from. Hebrews 4. If you have your scriptures, I want you to look at something there. Hebrews chapter 4, errm, from verse 12.

Anchor Lady:*For the word of God is quick and powerful...*

Peter:Now it says *The word of God is quick and powerful...*

Anchor Lady:*And sharper than any two-edged sword.*

Peter:The word is so sharp—that's the scriptures—the word is so sharp. What do they do?

Anchor Lady:*piercing to the dividing asunder of the soul*

Peter:*piercing to the dividing asunder of the soul*

Anchor Lady:*and spirit*

Peter:*and spirit*

Anchor Lady: *and of the joints*

Peter: Now, it's saying that what the word does for us—God's word, help us to separate between what is of the soul and what is of the spirit. Now, the only reason that we can make a separation between what is of the soul and what is of the spirit is because we have the Word of God. Now, the word of God gives us a description of our soul and the state of our spirit. We have no idea how our spirit is like. We have no idea what is the state of our spirit unless we allow the word to expose—the bible says it's so sharp that it can actually go deep down and analyse and decode for us what is the state of our spirit. Now, unless we as Christians sit down to understand what the Word says about this born-again spirit, unless we allow scriptures to be the sense by which we see these things, we will not understand what is obvious. And that's why the Father told the elder son; *All that I have is yours*. Unless we allow God to reveal them to us by His word. God's word has become the parameter or the telescope or the microscope by which we can understand and see the state of our spirit and what God has put in there. If not for that, there's no way we can know. That is why we are simply saying that to be a spiritual Christian, you have to be someone who keeps digging and digging into the word because the word reveals the state of your spirit to you. Now, let's look at James chapter 1. James chapter 1. Unless we allow the word of God to reveal to us the state of our spirit, we will end up living by our experiences and we will keep complaining that God has not given us... Look at James 1:22. *Be ye doers of the Word and don't be hearers only deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer of the Word, He is like a man beholding his natural face in a glass...* Now listen to this. In the same way, a natural man will look into a glass to see how their natural face looks like, the bible is saying it's the same way to see how your spiritual face looks like. I'll say that again. *You need to look at a mirror in the natural to see how your natural face looks like* according to James 1:26. The Bible is connecting and comparing the word of God to exactly what the mirror does, so there's no way I can know what my spirit looks like unless I look at the mirror of the Word. So God's Word has become my way of knowing the state of my spirit. I'm not going to live by what my eyes tells me, I'm not going to live by what my nose tells me, or what my ear tells me or what my skin tells me or what my senses tells me. I'm going to live by what the Word reveals to me as the state of my spirit. This is why the Father told the elder son, *All things I have is yours*. He was telling him what was obvious and when somebody is telling you what is obvious, they are simply telling you *You are not looking properly; You are not seeing properly...*

Anchor Lady: *You need an health (eyes) check*

Peter: You need to check these things properly. You see, I remember when Moses died, at the death of Moses... you see... everybody knew Moses was dead; all Israel knew he died on Mount Pisgah, but you see, God spoke to Joshua, God said, *Joshua, Moses, my servant is dead...* Now, why would God be telling Joshua what is obvious? Now, the reason why God told him what was obvious is because, God simply told him in the next verse, *You have to be strong; You have to be courageous... You have to be acting like Moses is still here—You've got to take responsibility.* So

what God is simply saying there is, He was telling Joshua what was obvious so that he can actually react or respond to the implication of the situation, not because Joshua never knew what happened but he wasn't responding to the implication of the death of Moses and God had to tell him, *he's dead*. In the same way, the Father told the elder son, He said, *See, all I have is yours... This should be obvious... This is what you should know...* And you see, like I said this evening, for every Christian, the problem we have with this same statement from our Father, the Bible says that *we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus...* The Bible says that *We are seated with Christ...* The bible says that concerning us, it says *All things that we need for life and godliness has been given to us...* But you see, if I have the question, you don't see it, it doesn't make any sense to the natural eyes, you don't even feel it... so it means if it is true—and which has to be true because God said it—it means we need to look into the mirror to see how it looks like. And the Bible tells us in James 1:26 that *the mirror by which we behold our spirit face is the word*. Unless I look into the mirror, I will never know how my spirit is like; I would never know how loaded is my spirit; I will never know the things that God has put into my spirit; I will never know how the weight of my spirit. I will end up, if I don't do that, I will end up living by my experience—by my natural senses. Now, see what James says...now look at verse 23, *If any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass...* Look at verse 24, *For he behold himself and goes his way...* Do you see that? The man looks into the mirror and goes his way—and that's what many Christians do. We look at the word, once we look at it...we go to church on Sunday, we go to Bible study, we look at the word and after that we go our way. After a time, we've come to a point where we've made a segregation, a separation between our reality of experience and our jobs, reality of our experience when it comes to relationships, reality of our experience when it comes to run our lives as compared to what we see in the Word that we look like. See what the bible says; the bible says that this man, he looked at his face in a mirror... what did he do next? He went his way. He just went his way. He just reacted normally, I mean, the very same things that makes unbelievers to be afraid is the very same things that makes him afraid. Anytime he checks the news, he checks newspapers, and they say this... we scream at the same things unbelievers scream at. We are afraid of the very same things they are afraid of. We are scared of the very same things that scares them. There seems to be no difference between our daily experience and those who don't believe in God. The bible says man, in James 1:24, he looks at the mirror, and what did he do next? The bible says he went his way. He just live life as usual as it should be, no difference. Now, it means, before we go to the next verse, verse 25, it means God doesn't want you looking at the state of the spirit in the word and going your way. You can't go your way. What you saw in the mirror, what you saw that the Father said you are, what you saw should go with you, you must talk to things

Anchor Lady:internalize it

Peter:You must talk to situations, You must react to circumstances

Anchor Lady:You must walk in that confidence

Peter: You must react to news based on what you saw. You cannot just look at the mirror and go your way. Now, this is the elder son's confusion. Here was the elder son, who should know that he was the son of the Father, who should know that all things that the Father has is his, but what did he do? He actually went his way. That is why we see him, he was slaving and labouring... he was actually trying to get the Father's favour because he told you, he said, *Father, You see, I laboured, I never broke Your rules, and yet You never gave me a young goat...* That's a son who actually knows that the father has everything that belongs to him as a son but yet, he went about his own way trying to establish the Father's favour. And the bible says if you look at the Law of liberty, if you look at the mirror and you go your way, you can't go your way. You cannot go your way. Now, watch this, verse 24. Verse 24 says *He beholds himself and goes his way...* can you see?

Anchor Lady: *Straightaway...*

Peter: *and straightaway, he forgot what manner of man he was.* Now, listen, the bible says something about the 'hidden man of the heart.' There's a hidden man of the heart. There is a man there; he's called the hidden man; he's called the new man. There's a man in you—the man that came into you when you gave your life to Jesus. The bible says this man who check the mirror and went his way, he forgot the manner of man... You see, the world is yet to see the brand of Christianity that Christ died for. Romans chapter 8 says *The whole creation—the whole earth—is awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God.* The world is yet to see the manner of men, the manner of women, the manner of spirit that we have in us. Listen, when Jesus actually spoke to the waves and to the seas and to the oceans, the bible says the people said *what manner of man is this? What manner of species is this? A man that the seas can listen to Him... A man that has so much authority and dominion that the ocean had to bow down to Him...* See what happened to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 3. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church when the Corinthians were living below the standard of grace, He told them in 1 Corinthians 3, He said, all these things that you are doing in the Corinthian church, he said *are you not acting like mere man? Are you not acting like ordinary people?* Think about that. The Apostle Paul said *Once you do all these things you are doing where you are backbiting, where you are talking against each other, where you are doing all these terrible things you are doing against one another,* he said *Are you not acting like mere men?* What does that mean? He's saying *I don't expect you to be ordinary people, I don't expect you to be mere people. There's a manner of man that you are; there's a hidden man of the heart that you are.* Now, in James 1, from verse 24, He said, *This man forgot the manner of man that he was.* There's a manner of man—there's a type of species—

Anchor Lady: that you are

Peter: that you are! And there's no way you can know who you really are unless you allow the word to reveal to your spirit. So you cannot use your experience—now, this is what we are going to hammer on today; you cannot use your experience to determine what manner of man you are. So many Christians... See, you need to listen to the prayer points of so many

Christians... You need to go to so many gatherings of Christians where the kind of prayer meetings, the kind of gatherings that bothers more on people customizing the word of God down to their experience. You cannot rely on your daily experience to reveal the state of your experience. It will lie to you. That's why Jonah said *Those that observe lying vanities forsake their mercies*. That's why the bible says *Let all man be a liar; let God be true*. Your human experience will lie to you. It will tell you that there is no hope; your human experience will tell you that God has not given you; your human experience will tell you that there is no more to your life; your human experience will tell you that there is nothing more that is going to happen. That's what it's going to tell you. It will tell you, you have to leave under sin, under the weight of the devil, under the weight of the things that actually pulls everybody down. Your human experience cannot tell you the state of your spirit! You need the Word of God to be the mirror to reveal to you who you are and when it does, you must never forget the manner of person that you are. Now, look at the next thing, look at verse 24, it said *For he beholds himself and goes his way and straightaway he forgot what manner of man he was*. Look at verse 25, it said *But whoso looks*—you see, that's a present continuous tense—*whoso looks into the perfect Law of liberty*—see that? And it said *continues therein...* now, it said *he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the Word...* You see, when I was much younger, they always tell us then *Now, you know what? Now, you've listened to the word, don't forget to do the word*. They said *well, don't forget to do the Word...* in fact, we prayed about it. We raise prayer points to say, *Well, as we heard the word today, we will be a doer of the word*. That prayer is irrelevant. Now, you don't tell someone who beheld their face in the mirror, and you are telling them, let's pray that they won't forget what they look like. Nobody prays that kind of stupid prayer in the natural to say that as I've looked in the mirror today, I don't want to forget the fact that I'm really great in the mirror... nobody prays that kind of prayer... You continue to look at the perfect Law of liberty. If you continue to look at the word and the word keeps describing your spirit to you. The Word of God tells you the kind of man that you are. The Word of God reveals the state of your spirit and it tells you that you are what? You are more than conqueror through Him that loved you. If the Word of God tells you that Christ lives in you and is the Hope of glory... If the Word of God tells you that the One that lives in you is greater than the one that is in the world, the bible says that if you continue to look, you can't forget. If you continue to look... So the reason why we forget the manner of person that we are is that we don't continue to look. We look, yeah we do look...

Anchor Lady:but we don't continue to look...

Peter:We look in Bible Studies. We look... in fact there are times... unfortunately, some Bible studies really, is not even looking, it's actually 'blinding'. I mean, I'm talking about a true study of the scriptures. We look, but the problem is we don't continue to look, so we then forget... so... not being a doer of the Word is not about praying about it. It's not something you pray about. If you continue to look, you wouldn't forget what you look like. That's the reason why much more so, it has become serious in these last days... where there are so many things going on in the world; so many things happening all over the world... terrible news, horrible news,

people bringing up stuffs and those things can dampen your spirit. These are the days that we continue to look. We continue to look. We have to continue to look... we have to continue to look to know the state of our spirit, to know the kind of things God has packaged in our spirit, to know what manner of person that we are and if we do, we will be able to lay hold upon what the Father said He has given to us. So, it means, what the Father told the elder son in Luke 15:31, He told him what was obvious and God has told us in our own days what is obvious about the state of our spirit and He has put it in the volume of scripts. That's why Jesus Christ said, *Lo, it is written of Me... I've come according to the volume of the books, what is written of Me.* God has packaged... God has spoken to us through His Son. The bible says, *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...* Hebrews chapter 1. Now, God has spoken. Now, we need to continue to look at what God has spoken. This realm must be so real to us, but like we said, it takes the Word of God to reveal this realm to us, to reveal the state of our spirit to us, to reveal all what the Father said He has given to us. We cannot find this in our natural senses, we cannot find this in our daily experience, we can only find it in the Word, and as we find it in the Word, it becomes a reality in our daily experiences.

Anchor Lady:Wow! I don't think there is anything more to add. But I will just like our viewers to go tonight to look on these and particularly, I'm bringing out this... when he said the man—the elder son, he was talking about James, he was saying, *Looking into the mirror..*

Peter:*continue to look*

Anchor Lady:look into it... and not forgetting—he forgot how he looked and he went his way. You know, some people don't... You know, yesterday, I was mentioning that some people don't even know their father owns... has a lot of things. So, for this elder son, he knows. That means, he looked into the mirror. Some are not even looking into the mirror at all. Some are in the stage, they are not even looking into the mirror to know what is of them. But now, he looked into the mirror...

Peter:and he went his way

Anchor Lady:he forgot and he went his way

Peter:You know, he went his way, you know what? He was trying to labour to get the father to give him things...

Anchor Lady:So, it is not enough to look into the mirror of God's Word, because it is that same mirror that will do the dividing separating what is in the soul, in the natural from what is in the spirit, but after looking, we must continue to look. We cannot just look once...

Peter: If we don't, we are going to go our own way, and establish our own thing

Anchor Lady:And then if we don't do, we will go our way and not go His way.

Peter:We'll go our own way. He just went his way, he did his own thing, he tried to... he was trying to establish the Father's favour by his own effort. He went his way... he just went his way. That's a son, the elder son for whom, having a relationship with the Father, for whom possessing all that the Father has, has no benefit for him.

Anchor Lady:...as if there was no mirror...

Peter:as if there was no father... as if there was no inheritance... as if there was no benefit for him. And you see, that's the same thing. I mean, you see to us today, in our generation, we have so many of us living our lives as if our Father is not the father of Spirits. As if the Father that we have... when Jesus was on the cross, He said *it is finished!* Now, so many of us live like it's not even finished. We talk like it's not finished. When Jesus said it is finished, we need to continue to I—and the bible says our problem is because we keep forgetting the manner of man that we are. We keep forgetting. And the antidote to forgetting the manner of man that we are in James 1:23-25... the bible says the antidote is to keep looking... we keep looking into the perfect Law of liberty. We have to keep looking and the more we look, we will not forget the manner of person that we are and we will not go our own way. Like it said, somebody looked at the mirror, and they forgot how they looked like and they went their way. We will not go our own way, we will go His way...

Anchor Lady:just like the elder son

Peter: just like the elder son... he's the son of the Father but he went his own way and was trying to labour to get the Father's favour.

Anchor Lady:Yes, I think we are just going to leave you with that because there is more to chew. We will expect you to chew on this. So till next week, same time, Saturday and Sunday, we do hope you will join us as we continue this series. So, let's go back into the mirror of God's word and begin to look into it not forgetting what the Father has said and so we will not go our own way

Peter:Amen

Anchor Lady:So, byeeee. See you next week.

Peter:Byeee... God bless you. Byeee

