## Episode 19 (Exposé 27):

**Anchor Lady:** We are back again and this is Expose 247 where we turn the light of Christ. Today I've just decided to go with the flow wherever this Prodigal Father series takes us today. Because I remember last week, it was very very explosive...you know it took me time to process the truth that were coming out. You know...we moved from Luke 15 we went to James chapter 1 and then we just thought we want to branch and have a quick look at again...but no it wasn't. It was an in-depth studying...looking into the mirror...somebody looking and going his own way. That was taking a different meaning and that was...it has a different life of its own.

So today you'll just be like me, we'll just sit back and...grab your bible and see what we are going to learn today, where this verse 31 or 32 whichever one we doing today where it is going to take...take us. So, I'm more prepared to get everything and I'm not going to miss out anything today and I hope you are prepared to...so over to you.

**Peter:** Yeah erm...viewers all over the world, you've been...if you've been with us on this Prodigal Father series, you are welcome again and if you are joining us for the very first time, we also welcome you as we begin to journey through the Prodigal Father series. A parable that Jesus actually spoke in a way to give us in-depth understanding of who the father is and how we are meant to relate with the father and how we can live a victorious Christian life.

Now, for the past few weeks, we've going through you know...from Luke 15 we've gone all the way right through verse 32 but there's a particular verse we're gonna look at today which is the response the elder son gave or one of the responses because the elder son erm...said so many things to the father. Now, verse 30...so if you're with us...er if you're there you can ... your journal, or you can open the scriptures to Luke 15 verse 30. Now this is one of the responses that the elder son gave to the father when he noticed that the father welcomed the younger son even after the younger son wasted the father's resources...this was one of the things the elder son told the father...I mean, you could call it one of his complaints. He said in verse 30, it says but as soon as this your son was come which hath devoured his living with harlots and prostitutes, you killed for him a fatted calf. So, this elder son...revealed to us what was in his heart. Now you see last episode, if you were with us...last two episodes, we established the fact that the father told the elder son instead of you complaining that you never had a young goat, the father said to him...the father said, you are my son, you are always with me and all things I have is yours.

Now you see, I thought really that the problem that the elder son had was because he was not even too sure that he was the son of the father and that's why he was trying to labour...he was in the field when the younger son came back...he was trying to gain the father's favour by labouring and not breaking any of the father's instruction. But, you know one thing the elder son said in verse 30 and this is very critical for anyone who is quite keen to walk with the father and receive things from God. See what it said...it said when this...this is what the elder son said, he said when this your younger son...when this your son came back...that means the elder son acknowledges the fact that the younger son was a son or is a son of the father and you would have thought because the elder son understood that the younger son is a son, he would have understood the fact that the younger son deserved as a son whatever the father was going to give him even though he wasted the father's resources. But the elder son said even when this your son came back—now watch the next statement—and wasted your resources with the

harlot, why would you still kill for him a fatted calf? It means to the elder son, it wasn't enough that younger son was a son, the younger son had to qualify –beyond the fact that he was a son—he had to qualify by his lifestyle before the father should be able to give him something.

Now listen, this is a situation that most of us have at the moment. At the moment, so many Christians believe it's not just enough to be a son of God...you must be worthy, you must qualify before you can have the right to say that the father should give you something. Now, I'll say this again. So, the elder...now we understand one of the problems that the elder son had because before I used to think it was because he didn't have enough revelation that he was a son but he said to the father...I quote. The elder son told the father, he said, this your son came back from wasting your resources but if he wasted your resources, this your younger son shouldn't qualify to be given a fatted calf. So, we are addressing today this mentality, this understanding, or this reasoning that so many people have that they believe it is not just enough to be a son of God, it is not just enough to be a son of the father. You should be worthy; you should be qualified before the father can give you something.

Now we understand the reason why the elder son was actually stuck, why he didn't have a young goat. So, the reason, one of the reasons he didn't have a young goat was because he felt within himself that being a son was not enough, he had to be worthy, he had to be qualified before the father could give him anything and this is the reason he was unable to receive from the father. So, let's say this, are you at the moment—in a state in your life, in your Christian walk—in your spiritual life where you don't have the confidence of being able to receive from the father. Where you are not bold enough, where you are not too sure that whatever you ask the father, you are receiving. This could be one of the things that is getting you stuck because so many Christians have come to a point where being a son of God to them is not enough but they have to be worthy, they have to qualify for them to be able to be given anything by the father.

Now the reason people have this mentality is because we don't understand the true nature of the father that we serve. We don't understand God's true nature and that nature is what we are going to explore today. So now, if you are there, I want you to look with me to John chapter 3, this is one of the most popular verses in the scripture. Now, it's one of the most evangelistic verses; John 3 verse 16. I mean...almost everyone knows that; believers and unbelievers alike. Now this John chapter 3 verse 16 will help us understand the true nature of the father. Listen, two cannot walk together—Amos 3:3— two cannot walk together unless they agree. How can you walk with the father if you don't agree with what the father says about himself and about his nature? Listen...and I think before we go into this John chapter 3 verse 16, I need to say this quickly. I think one of the reasons why so many Christians have this elder son mentality er majorly is because we don't understand the mega difference between the new covenant and old covenant; there's a huge difference between the old and the new covenant. The Bible says, we are able ministers of the new covenant not of the oldness of the letter. Which means if you gonna walk with God, you need to understand we're in the dispensation of the new covenant and let me say this quickly, the new covenant brings to us the nature of the father. The old covenant never gave us God's true nature, it was a diversion tactic because you see the old covenant was ratified by the blood of bulls and goats as given by Moses and the Bible tells us that the law was just an interim thing, the law never revealed God's true nature. God related with the Israel on the basis of the contract of the old covenant.

Now that contract did not reveal God's true nature and that's why Jesus did say when he came, he said, I have come to reveal the father. When Philip asked him, show us the father, Jesus said, if you have seen me, you have seen the father. The bible tells us that nobody has seen God at any time but the son of God who came from his side—that's Jesus—has come to reveal him. Now Jesus is the ultimate expression of the father and I don't want us to be like those disciples who worked with Jesus; who got confused about who the father really is. You see, there was a time that James and John—the son of Boanerges—they actually wanted to call down fire on a town when they were not allowed to preach in that town and Jesus Christ told them you don't know the kind spirit you are made of. Because they had a picture of the father that was under the old covenant but Jesus came to reveal to us who the true father is. Now our focus on this **Expose** today is not making a distinction between old and new covenant but I had mention that so that we can understand that if you need to know God's true nature you have to look at the father through the lens of Jesus. Now look at what John 3 says to us about how God relates with us; the true nature of the father. Now, I'll read from John 3 er...verse 16, see what it says for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. Now think about this, now this is one of the most over quoted scriptures. Think...why did God give his only begotten son? That's a big question. Why did God give Jesus? Because the world was qualified? No. Because the world was sober? No. Because the world repented? No. Because the world came to themselves...and said oh we've actually sinned against God or oh we are actually bad or this? The bible says the only reason why God gave his begotten son, the only reason why God gave his most precious gift...in fact, the bible calls Jesus, the indescribable gift. The most precious gift that the father has is Jesus Christ and the bible says the reason in John 3:16 why God gave Jesus to the world had nothing to do with what the world did...had nothing to do with the res...I mean the response of the world. God gave Jesus his only begotten son to the world, why? Because he loved the world. So, God gave his only begotten son because of God! If you can say that. God gave because of God. God gave his only begotten son because of himself; because of his nature. Now this is what we need to understand that the reason why God gave us Christ was because God loved the world.

Now look at this...John 3:16 so that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Now if you look at the next verse and it says for God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world. Now if you think about this...now it is, the word 'condemnation' is the same word you can use for 'unqualified'. Now for example, if you condemn something, it means you are saying this thing is not fit for use; that what condemnation means...I mean, in our normal everyday use of the world. So, when you condemn something, you're saying this thing is not fit for what I want to use it for. Now the bible says that Jesus—now I want you listen to this—Jesus said, for God did not send his son—if you have your bible and it's written in...I mean, if you have these bibles that they write in red, you'll see these verses are written in red which means these are the very word of Jesus himself; Jesus said—God did not send his son into the world to disqualify the world or to condemn the world or to tell the world it's not fit, it's not worthy.

Listen, (chuckles) Jesus will never say... Jesus will never say to anyone that you are not fit, you're not qualified. Now see, the elder son was relating with the father and he complained to the father that I'm surprised—that's in Luke 15:30—he was saying that I'm surprised that this younger son doesn't qualify so why would you give him a fatted calf. But, the bible says to us in this John 3:17, it said, God never sent his son. Now, I want you to receive this word and think about it and meditate on what you're hearing. God never sent his son to condemn the world. Now it means God is not in the business of disqualifying anyone; the father cannot disqualify you and this is the reason. Because the reason the father gives is

because of himself. Now the bible says to us that *even if we are unfaithful...*now this is where it gets really really serious; that's the book of Timothy. It said, *God is always faithful, it said even we are un...if we are faithless.* Now listen to this, *if we are faithless.* It means, if we are not responding the way we should respond. Look at the younger son, if you read the book of Luke 15, it says the younger son went out and wasted his father's resources, he burnt out his father's inheritance that means he became faithless but you know what? The father remained faithful. The book of Timothy says *if we are faithless, he remains faithful.* 

Now you need to understand on this **Expose**, we are not glorifying erm erm...people living the way the want to live; don't get this wrong. We're not saying it's irrelevant what you do. We're not saying it doesn't matter if you waste resources. We're not saying it doesn't matter if you live an unholy life. We're not saying it doesn't matter if you are ungodly. We're not saying it doesn't matter if you live a life that is not glorifying to God. We're not saying that...but the reason for doing the right thing, the reason for living a life that is pleasing unto God in terms of our character, our attitude, is a different motivation altogether. The motivation can never be that we want to qualify ourselves to be given anything by God. So, the bible says this again in John 3:17 *God never sent his son to disqualify the world.* God never does that. If you have a spir...if you have a mentality within you...if you keep thinking within yourself that *do I qualify...I mean, do I qualify for God to give me that.* If you have that kind of thinking, the bible tells us, it cannot be a God-thinking. Because why? God never send his son to condemn the world.

And we need to say this pretty quickly which is very important. Now it's a good news that God never sent his son to what...to condemn the world, the reason why it's a good news is because no one anyway can qualify to meet the standard of God. This is where the elder son made a very big blunder. The elder son thought—in Luke 15 up to verse 31—the elder son was thinking that if he could actually make sure he doesn't break the laws of the father. The elder son was thinking that if he labours in the field, he believes he would qualify, he would be worthy enough for the father to give him a young goat. Think about it, this is the irony of that mentality. The irony of that mentality is, it is that same thinking that stopped him from getting the young goat. I'll say this again, the elder son thought that he could qualify himself...he could live a life so much pleasing to the father that it will make the father give him. It was that very same wrong thinking; that same wrong reasoning that stopped him from being able to receive the father's blessing. It's a wrong thinking! There's a different reason why we have to live right but it can never be because we want to qualify ourselves and this is the good news for those who are dejected, for those who are broken, for those who think they can never meet up to that standard of God which is so perfect.

Now that's why Jesus said, I've come so that the blind...those who are blind can see and so those who claim they can see can go blind. Now the fact is, if you think that you are so strong and you think you're so moral or you think you are so good that you can meet up with God's standard. There are two things I will say to you: number 1, you don't even know what the standards are because the bible says in Romans chapter 3 it says, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The bible says, Jesus is the father's glory; in the book of Hebrews. It means do you think you can meet up to God's standard? And that's why God gave the law. The bible says, the law was given so every mouth can be stopped. If you think you are perfect, you don't know God's standard but if you think you are broken if you believe that you cannot do this...welcome to the club! Listen, the reason why you cannot feel condemned is because you cannot meet the standard anyway but there's one person who met the standard, there's one

person who met God's demands. The voice came from heaven and said, this is my beloveth son in him I'm well pleased. God said, I'm happy with one. He has met my perfect demand and what happened at Calvary...at redemption is there was a transfer; there was an exchange. The bible says he that knew no sin was made sin for us so we can become the righteousness of God in him. So, it means Jesus took up on our what...our sins and its consequences by dying on the cross and we took upon ourselves Jesus' righteousness and we got the benefit of Christ.

Now listen, if the enemy tells you that you're not worthy that you're not qualified then you can tell the enemy...anyway the reason why the father gave me, the reason why Jesus was given to me as a gift was not because I was not worthy...the bible says in John 3:16 that God loved...that he gave...no other reason attached. Don't attach any other reasons to that scripture, don't do it! Don't attach it, don't even allow your own senses, don't allow your fleshly thinking to attach any other reason to why God gave. God gave because he loved; full stop! Don't put any 'but' after it! Don't say God gave because he loved the world and because I think I tried as well. Don't say God gave because he loved the world and I think I have made my own efforts as well. Don't add anything to that scripture. God gave his son because he loved!

Now look at this, look at John 3:17—now we've read that—it says, God did not send his son to disqualify the world. So, like I was saying if the enemy comes to you and tells you you don't qualify, say, thank you enemy. I don't qualify but Jesus qualifies and I'm gonna stand on the qualification of Jesus...I'm going to stand on the premise that there is one person that qualified and I get the benefit of him that qualified. Now that's the point, there's no point arguing with the enemy. Now the bible says, in a place Jesus gave a parable and said it is better to agree with your adversary before you get to the court. Jesus said it is good that you agree with your adversary. If the adversary tells you, you don't qualify...if he tells you, you don't have what it takes...if tells you, you know what, you shouldn't be a beneficiary of the father's blessing. Tell him, I agree with you, I don't qualify...and I don't qualify but there's one that qualified and that is Jesus Christ and I am standing in the robe of his righteousness.

Now listen, look at next verse 18, it says he that believes on him is not condemned but he that believes not is condemned. Now think about it, this is where the whole problem is. Now you see, I've seen people who are beginning to wonder how can a loving God...how can a God that is so loving, how can he send someone to hell. People say that and they try to you know...to manipulate the scriptures and say God cannot be so loving...if he actually loves us so much—because we are talking about the true nature of the father and we said he is a God that gives without finding faults—now how can such a God that sends people to hell. Now listen Jesus said something, Jesus said I did not come to the world to condemn the world—and then the next verse says—he that believes not is condemned already. Now listen, Jesus does not have to condemn anyone. Jesus will not condemn anyone. What Jesus said is the world is already condemned anyway. Listen, the world is already condemned.

Listen, look at the younger son. The reason why the younger son in the Prodigal Father Series, the reason why he was eating with the pigs, the reason why he joined himself with the citizens of that country. The reason why somebody who was so decked in his father's glory at home ended up eating with animals wasn't because his father condemned him, it wasn't because the father disqualified him. It was because without the father he was disqualified already. Jesus did not come to condemn the world because the world is already condemned. So instead of people thinking that God sends anybody to hell, God does not send anybody to hell. People send themselves to hell by rejecting the way-out that Jesus

brought. That's why Jesus said in verse 17 and 18 *I did not come to condemn the world*—but he said—*he that believes not is already condemned.* This is where we have to understand the reality of the father's nature. So the fact is, the reason why some people are not benefitting of God's goodness, the reason why they are not benefitting of God's faithfulness is not because God is saying *I'm gonna see if you're qualified, I'm gonna see whether you are worth it before I can give it to you.* No! No, that's not it. You cannot work with God with that kind of thinking because see...you cannot try enough to be worthy or qualified. Now if you get to that kind of mentality, the devil is going to fight you, the devil is going to manipulate your thinking. The devil is going to harass you if you fall prey to that kind of thinking. Now don't fall prey to that kind of reasoning. Now it means Jesus is simply saying...in this John 3 that *I have not come to condemn the world but the world is already condemned before I showed up.* That's what he's trying to say; *before I showed up, the world is condemned already.* So, now that's what he says.

And it says...look at verse 19, it says this is the condemnation that light has come into the world and men loved darkness. Jesus is simply saying even we brought light—think about it—we brought light...I brought light but people still loved darkness more than light. That's why when people talk about... now see, I hope we...if we have enough time on this episode on this series we could have gone... maybe we'll probably go there today before we round up. Now Jesus said light has come to the world but men loved darkness than light and they rejected the light. So, I'm simply saying—according to the scriptures—the reason why some people have not had access—this is the wrong thinking that the elder son has, the elder son was thinking in his mind that the reason why the younger son should not benefit from the father's goodness is because the elder ...the younger son actually wasted the father's resources but that's not the reason people don't enjoy God's goodness—the reason people don't enjoy God's goodness is because they don't receive it; that's why they don't enjoy it. That's why Jesus said to us, look at how good the father is. Jesus said that, God is so good that he allows the sun and the rain to come upon the wicked and the righteous. Think about it... have you noticed that when the rain falls or the sun shines, the sun does not select the people it's going to shine upon and Jesus used that illustration for this generation to understand the true nature of the father. He said see the father will make his rain and sun to come down upon the righteous and the wicked. So, if anybody is not receiving the rain, if anybody is not having access to the sunshine, it means they are actually rejecting it. It's either they've run into something...either they are been covered up. For example, even if the rain is falling, if the sun is shining...if you want...I mean go to the beach and they go on holiday to what...to soak in some sun right? But if you decide to go indoors and the sun doesn't fall on you, you're not going to blame the sun. It's because you decided to go indoors. So, Jesus is saying God is so good that he's going to allow the rain and sun to come on the righteous and the wicked. So, the reason...

## **Anchor Lady:** ...and run out of it...

**Peter:** ...but the reason why the wicked are not enjoying God's goodness is because they keep rejecting it and this is how the father's true nature is. It reaches goodness... *God so loved the world* and I think Christians should come to terms with the fact that the bible never says *God so loved Christians*. Listen to that...he didn't say *God so loved the righteous man*...that's why when you are talking to people, when you are looking at your neighbour, you need to understand that the bible says *God so loved the world because*...it says *God gave his begotten son because he loved the world*. For God so loved the world and that's why he gave his begotten son. So, God's giving, God's goodness is completely dependent on God and it has nothing to do with mankind. Now listen, before you were born, before you showed up on the

scene, God already gave us Jesus it's got nothing to do with you and we must relate with the father that way.

There's something I want us to look at quickly. About this erm...I mean, the way God gives. Now if you are listening to us on this episode, the reason we are actually hammering on this revelation of the father is because if you don't understand this and if you don't relate with the father in this understanding, it will affect your ability to receive from the Lord, because we now know that the reason why the elder son complained is because he had this wrong thinking. You see, wrong thinking can damage your abilityand your capacity to receive everything that God gave in Christ Jesus...it can destroy that capacity so we need to set out thinking right...our thinking must be set straight and that's why the bible says in Romans chapter 12 that *our lives can be completely transformed if we renew our minds*. So, this thing that you are listening to today is about mind-renewal. So, you need to renew your mind to align with the true nature of the father.

Now look at Luke...we gonna look at something Jesus did say about the Jews...about Israel. And you see, I want us to look at Luke chapter 13...and Luke chapter...I mean, 19 from verse 41 to 44...

**Anchor Lady: ...Luke 19?** 

Peter: ...yeah Luke 19 and Luke 13 but first from Luke 19 from verse 41 to 44. There's something I want us to look at there...so that we can get our minds renewed in the word of God. Look at Luke 19 verse 41 and it says when he was come near, he beheld the city and wept over it—that's Jesus, he wept over the city, that's the city of Jerusalem. Jesus said—if you had known even you in this your days, the things which belongs to your peace but now they are hidden from you. For the day shall come upon you that your enemies shall cast a trench about you...and then...and compass you around and keep you on every side and shall lay you even unto the ground and your children within you and they say not leave you in one stone upon another because you know not the time of your visitation. Now, this particular event that Jesus mention actually did happen in history. If you are student of history, in AD 70, Jerusalem was evaded and it was brought down to rubbles. Now when some bible scholars...they think that this particular scripture we read is both for AD 70 and the future, but well...we're not looking at that. We are looking at the fact that history records it that in 70 AD, Jerusalem was laid down to rubbles. Now...and Jesus did mention this in Luke chapter 19 from verse 41 to 44. And you see, people begin to reason and say the reason why the Jews or the Israelites actually had this experience because you know the Jews did say to Pilate, they said well, crucify him...and when Pilate said I'm innocent of the blood of this man, er they told the Pilate erm...the Jews said let the blood be upon our head and that of our children. And you see, people come to the conclusion that this is one of the punishment, one of the reasons why Jerusalem was punished because of the fact that the Jews were quite instrumental to the what...to erm...Jesus being crucified.

Now, I want to you to hold on to that and then quickly run to Luke chapter 13. That's what we're going to look at...now we're going to connect these two verses and the reason why we're looking at this is so that you can understand the true nature of the father as revealed through Jesus Christ. Look at Luke chapter 13...

**Anchor Lady: ...**do we have the time for it?

**Peter:** ... yeah. We're going to round up now. Luke chapter 13, see what it says in the last few verses; the last...the verse 34 and 35. Now Luke 13...

**Anchor Lady: ...34** to 35...

**Peter:** ...yeah Luke 13...I'll read verse 34. Now see what it says, now it says o Jerusalem Jerusalem who killed the prophet and stone that hath sent to you. How often will I gather you, your children together as a hen does gather brood under her wings and you would not. Can you see that? Jesus said Jerusalem Jerusalem, I have come...I've tried to gather you as a hen would gather her chicken but it said, you would not. I have come... I've come to release life...I've come to release light; I've come to give it to you but you would not accept it.

Now, if you look at what it said in the next verse 35, behold your house was left to you desolate. So, when Jerusalem was invaded, Jesus said the reason it was invaded was because I brought life, I brought something, it was rejected. Now listen, the reason why the world is the way it is today...the reason why the ungodly person or the wicked person is on their way to destruction has nothing to do with that...God was paying them back for their evil lifestyles. No! People talk about the fact that there's going to be flood in the nation because the fact that they allowed certain kind of lifestyles or things like that. This is not the true gospel; Jesus said that I've not come to condemn the world. I've not come for anyone to be qualified before I can bless them. I bless them anyway before they can ever qualify. All he's asking for is that people accept and receive the offer that he's brought to them. This is how the true nature of the father must be understood. If you understand this, we will not be like the elder son who was misjudging the younger son and we will be able to receive from God if we stand before God with that understanding without allowing the enemies to deceive us to making ourselves to qualify for the father's blessings.

**Anchor Lady:** hmn wow...while I was trying to caught my breath as I follow you but what I found very very very sober and giving me the thought is about the...this elder son that he was just working himself up for the father's love...

**Peter:** ...to be worthy...

**Anchor Lady:** ...and it rings true this verse of this song that says;

## (Anchor Lady singing)

not the labour of my hands can fulfil the Lord's demand could my zeal no respite know; could my tears forever flow

## (Anchor Lady & Peter singing)

all for sin could not atone

thou must save and thou alone

**Anchor Lady:** ...I wish the elder son knows that no labour, no zeal...even no matter without any respite could make...could just make it. No tears even if it flow forever, if the Lord will save and him alone. So, if we live our lives like the elder son trying to work ourselves up to earn what he has already given...you know it's just like...it's a futile exercise.

**Peter:** ...trying to earn what he has given...

**Anchor Lady:** ...yes earning what...you know you just live in resentment...you know he was resenting his younger's...younger brother's blessings...you know...

**Peter:** ...he was resenting the father's goodness...

**Anchor Lady:** ...father's goodness...resenting in bitterness. He stayed outside and so...for what ...all his life slaving for what is actually his. So, I just want us to go back again today and ponder on this saying and I will like to invite you. I don't know if you're in our neighbourhood tomorrow, we'll be...we were invited to Wood harvest...

Peter: ...yeah...

**Anchor Lady: ...** Manchester. And the following Sunday we are invited to Chapel House Christian Fellow...

**Peter:** ...yeah, we'll be in Wood harvest Manchester at 11 am tomorrow ministering the word of life and also...on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> which is next week Sunday, we'll be in Chapel House Christian Fellowship in Chorley Lancashire where we'll also be ministering word of life.

**Anchor Lady:** So, we hope to do live transmission; we might do it so if you can...if you can join on line. You can come, you're free to come. We hope to see you. So, on Sunday, tomorrow's evening by 7pm we're continue on this ...

**Peter:** ...we'll be live again tomorrow at 7pm on expose and we'll be going through the prodigal father's series.

**Anchor Lady:** So, we'll see you tomorrow, same time; 7pm. Keep sharing, keep pondering on these things. Okay bye...

**Peter:** Bye. God bless you.