

Episode 7 (Exposé 15): The Key To Effortless Change

Anchor Lady: Hello everyone. This is Exposé²⁴⁷ where we turn the light on Christ. We are glad you are joining us this week. I remain the anchor lady, Bukola by name and with me as usual is,

Peter: Yeah, my name is Peter Adewole. Welcome again to another exciting episode of Exposé.

Anchor Lady: Last week we had a wonderful time and we were talking about the goodness of God and people...how some might run away from that providence and wound themselves... Do you want to remind our viewers or anybody coming in for the very first time where we are in this Prodigal Father series?

Peter: Yeah, last episode, we actually explored the prodigal father series and we looked at the younger son and we actually looked at from the very point that triggered the U-turn of the prodigal—of this younger son, back to the father. And one thing we pin-pointed in the Luke 15 parable was quite unlike what we might have thought, what drove him on the journey back home was a deep reflection of the goodness of his father—and that was where the U-turn started. And so, that's where we actually stopped. So we think, what we found out is a genuine repentance, a genuine turn-around starts from the revelation of the goodness of the father.

Anchor Lady: And I remember last week, we were trying to remind our viewers about this Jonathan's grandson—Saul's grandson, the reaction to the goodness

Peter: yeah...

Anchor Lady: You know, why we see the younger son is like running in to that goodness, so we see someone running away and wounding himself. That was the highlight for me last week

Peter: Yeah. We established this last episode on that Saturday and we said the reason why so many people are not productive or so many Christians are not productive in their Christian walk is a lack of revelation of how good God is. Now, we know God is good and the best reflection we have about God's goodness is to use our human experience about God's goodness. But Jesus said something in the gospels, He said, *"Even when men are so good, the goodness of men can still not beat God's goodness."* That's why Jesus said that *"If you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more your Heavenly Father?"* So what Jesus was trying to say is, it doesn't matter how good we think a father can be from our human experience, Jesus is simply saying God's goodness is far greater than men's goodness. That's why Jesus said...made that statement.

Anchor Lady: Yes, I hate to draw you back but I think...it seems as if I've not recovered from the last episode because I remember your handle on that...the...the...the people with the talents in the perception...

Peter: yeah...

Anchor Lady: ...so I remember that handle and it kept me thinking...

Peter: ...yeah, that's true. You know, the parable of the talents, we emphasized that. We noticed that the reason why the man who was given one talent, the reason he was unproductive with the one talent was because of the revelation he had of the master who gave him the talent. You know he said something? He said...

Anchor Lady: *"I know..."*

Peter: *"I know that you are a wicked man..."* and that *"you wanted to reap where you did not sow"* and that's the reason why his one talent remained one talent. So what it's simply saying is that in Christianity...

Anchor Lady: ...perception is key, right?

Peter: ...productivity cannot go beyond the revelation of the goodness of God—and that's why the Apostle Paul said *"Behold, the goodness of God lead you to repentance..."* That's it. I think that's one of the problems of the Pharisees why they had what we call hypocritical lifestyle because they don't even understand the extent of the goodness of the father. So, if there's one thing we've established so far in the Luke 15 story, we've established the fact that the younger son began the journey at the point he reflected on the goodness of his father. What did he say? He said *"even my father's hired servants have enough to eat and to spare..."* So it means *what am I doing here?* So I think a good minister of the gospel will not get genuine repentance from people unless they understand the degree of God's goodness which Jesus said was even much more better than the best of fathers on this earthly realm. And that's it.

Anchor Lady: I just hope like last week like I encouraged our viewers to go and reflect...

Peter: yeah...

Anchor Lady: ...you know, that's the...that's the...that's the foundation of coming back, of home coming...is reflecting on the goodness of the father. I just hope you've started reflecting like I have started. I hope you will still keep on in the journey and getting this perception of the father...alright. So this...today, we would be going to...

Peter: yes, today, we are still exploring the dynamics of repentance. We're looking at this younger son and seeing his turn around And you see...errr, today, we're still on the same Luke 15 and from verse 17 to verse 18. Now, errm, last episode, we talked about verse 17 so we make progress to verse 18—Luke 15 verse 18. See what it said... now, I want you to watch the statement, the thought pattern, the thinking pattern of this younger son. Look at verse 18, it said *"I will arise and go to my father, I will say unto him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you..."* Now, see...this is quite important. I thought that if this younger son was going to go back home to the father, I thought his thinking should have been *'Oh, I've wasted my father's resources...Oh, I've wasted my father's inheritance, or I've done something evil, ...or I've actually wasted my life... I've made my father to be unhappy with what I did..."* That should have

been...that's how we think about repentance. So when we talk about repentance, we are always thinking about, *We've done something wrong and we need to be sorry for what we did wrong...* But look at this younger son's statement in his heart. The picture...or what was paramount for him was about what he did against his father. The father was the key figure in question. See, when people repent of sins, we always talk about the activities... we talk about the things that we did wrong...

Anchor Lady: yeah...

Peter: forgetting the fact that it's not about what we did wrong, it's about to Whom we did wrong

Anchor Lady: so we need to establish that first...

Peter: this is about the father. Now, if you are on this episode with us, some weeks ago we established one thing; we said sin is not about the fact that we did something wrong. Sin is about identity—we said that, right?

Anchor Lady: Yeah

Peter: It's about we use things in our lives and activities to define ourselves. It doesn't matter if that thing is good or that thing is wrong, it's about we deriving identity from the things that we did and so the major crux of sin is about the fact that we have chosen other things outside the father. So we've chosen something else but the father. So that's what sin is all about. For example, when people steal or people are becoming covetous, whatever, let's see what the scriptures say about this. If you're there, you can open Hebrews chapter 13. You see, with this parable of the younger son, Jesus redefined the whole concept of sin and he also redefined the whole concept of repentance with this parable. Now if you look at this Hebrews 13, there's something there that's quite revelational for us to understand about the homecoming of this younger son. Hebrews 13, can you read that? Now, if you read verse 5... now, watch this, Hebrews 13:5, see what the scripture has to say. What does it say?

Anchor Lady: *"Let your conversation be without covetousness [okay] and be content with such things as ye have [okay] for he had said..."*

Peter: ...now, can you see? It says *"Let your lifestyle be without covetousness..."* Don't covet.

Don't look at someone else and say *Oh, I wish they had...or I wish I had what they had... or I wish they can just drop dead so I can just take what belongs to them.* It says that *don't covet.*

Now, watch this; what does it say next?

Anchor Lady: it says *"be ye content..."*

Peter: ...be content...be happy with what you have. Then what did it say next?

Anchor Lady: *"for he had said..."*

Peter: Now, *for He had said...* Wait there. It said the reason you cannot afford to be covetous is because HE—somebody, not something! If you end up being covetous, you are not trusting 'He' that said...

Anchor Lady: ...something...

Peter: It's about Him! So anytime we become covetous, it's not about the activity of being covetous, it's about we are not trusting 'He' that said... it's about Him. It's about, we don't trust Him that He would supply—we don't trust what He said... So what we're looking at when it comes to the case of covetousness is not about coveting, it's about...we don't even trust Him that said... The younger son in this parable understood that whatever he did with the inheritance was he was trusting to get a sense of value, identity or definition from the things he took from the father and these things were trying to fill his identity and it was an attack on the father...

Anchor Lady: hmmm...

Peter: This is the reason why the Pharisees got the issue of sin wrong. Anytime we commit a sin, we say Oh God, I did something wrong, I lied against this person or I lied about that... It's not about that; it's about the fact that when we do those things, those things are an indication of something much more serious: not trusting the father. That's why the notion of repentance is not about the things that we did wrong, it's about 'to Whom' that we did wrong. This is the foundation of repentance. This is the whole bottomline of re—genuine repentance. See, anytime we repent and our repentance is about the activities that we did wrong, we end up becoming Pharisees, because the Pharisees thought that repentance is about you not doing the wrong thing... What we're simply saying is, even if you did the right thing, as long as that thing is trying to replace the identity that only the father can give, that is sin. And when we repent, we're saying, Father, you are my life—not those things. You are my definition. And this is the whole bottom line of what repentance is. Now, there's something that comes to my mind and I want our viewers to think about that... Anytime people want to give their lives to Jesus, Romans chapter 10—we don't have time to read that today—what's the whole bottom line of salvation? The scripture says *"if you confess with your mouth, the Lord Jesus..."* that's the very first step into salvation. If you say with your mouth *"Jesus is my Lord"* nothing else is supreme to me anymore. This is the whole foundation. That's why, I've seen...I've heard some preachers say, well, the whole 'sinners' prayer' is just too easy... or the 'sinners' prayer' just, the sinners' prayer doesn't cut it... people should come and say, *Oh, this is what I've done wrong... this is what I've done... I've committed that activity... I've done this, I've done that...Oh God, forgive me...* But if you noticed, Romans 10:9 says *"if you confess with your mouth, the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be what? Saved"* So what's the first step? Confessing that Jesus is the Lord. What does that statement mean? I'm

saying *"He's supreme... He's all that matters to me... He defines my worth... He defines my identity... He defines my value—He's my value, He's my supply, He's my provision, I don't need to be covetous, He can sustain me; I don't need to lie."* Can you see that? He can provide; He's my everything—I don't need to fight! So this is the point, so salvation really—which is the starting point—is a matter of saying Jesus is what? He's Lord; He's all I need! He's all I have. And this is the whole point about the repentance of the younger brother. What did he say? He said *"I've sinned against God [and against who?] heaven...and to you father."* It's about the father—sin is about the father—that's what we are saying—and repentance must be about the father as well. Even though you've done things wrong, but there's always a sin behind the sin—and the sin behind the sin is not trusting the identity that only the father can give. This is the point the younger son got into in this verse 18. He said, *"I've sinned against heaven and I've sinned against YOU as a person."* See? He didn't even talk about the wasting that he did of the inheritance, he didn't talk about the activities that he has performed... he didn't even...he was quiet about the very activities he did wrong, but if we talk about repentance in this day, we talk about *Oh, I spent the money...I spent the inheritance... I shouldn't have spent... I did this...* But in the focus of the younger son, in his repentance, his statement went all the way back to what? The father—it's about the father. It's about not trusting the father.

Anchor Lady: If there's anything anybody should take out of this, it's just to know what we need to be quiet about and what we need to talk more about. Just like the journey of this younger son started with the perception of the father, in reflecting about the goodness of the father [yeah], he did not stop at that [yeah]... Then you know, he quickly know where to put the father. The father's place in this scheme of repentance is like, *I've sinned against the father...* It's all about the father and we should be loud about that.

Peter: It's about the father. Even sin is about the father. It's about trusting anything else but the father. So when we repent, it's about saying...it's about the father. That's why his repentance is all about the father—can you see?

Anchor Lady: So we need to realign our focus in this our repentance journey to know that the father is in the central scheme and everything revolves around the father. First, we start, just like the younger son, by reflecting on the goodness of the father, then again...

Peter: anything we did wrong, anything we do wrong in our lives that we think it's the wrong act, it all boils down to not taking the identity that only the father can give

Anchor Lady: yeah

Peter: That's the bottom line, that's the bottom line. This is the... this is why when we seek revelation through the Word, it's trying to get this identity that only the father can give to get it into our spirit. Anytime people miss that, they will always go into doing the wrong things. It's not about the things, it's about what informs doing those wrong things. It's about lack of trust in what the father said. That's why Hebrews 13:5 says *"He has said...I will never leave you"* So why are you covetous?

Anchor Lady: So you start coveting the moment you forget that he has said...

Peter: If you don't take what he gives...and anytime we repent, our repentance always goes back to the fact that, *Oh, I didn't take what the Father said about me serious...*

Anchor Lady: hmmm

Peter: *I didn't trust the Father enough...* This is the bottom line of repentance. Repentance is beyond the activities or the things we did wrong; it's about 'to Whom' we did wrong... it's about we didn't trust the Father. Any repentance that brings it down to the activities of what we did wrong is Pharisee...is Pharisee repentance. They are all concerned about the activities that we did wrong, but this younger son on his U-turn journey back home, he said *"Father, It's about you; It's you that I did something wrong to... It's you; it's about You...* Did you see that? So repentance must be about the Father—it's about the Father...and this is what the verse 18 did say to us. There's...if you...there's something, Anchor Lady, before you go on there's something, I mean, we need to think about. If you know...in Genesis, I mean, the reason why we always like to go back to Genesis when we talk about sin and disobedience is because that's where it started from. Genesis is where everything started from. If we think about genesis, look at the way Adam and Eve actually fell and disobeyed... What did the serpent say to them? The serpent said, *"Did God say you cannot eat of any fruit from the garden? Did God say???"* So if you think about it, the whole foundation of their disobedience was not trusting what the Father said... This is the bottom line of sin. So please, anytime you see anyone fall into an error, or you see yourself going into things you shouldn't do, please, don't be too much concerned about the activities themselves... if you are, you are not doing genuine repentance. Be more concerned about the fact that you are not taking the identity that God has given you... Be more concerned about the fact that you are not taking the revelation of God's word for you in that particular situation... that's why you are looking at other options. So a true repentance starts from looking at the father...

Anchor Lady: I wish we could go on and on about this but I think at this moment, we just have to stop here but I just want to remind our viewers, if this blesses you in any way, you might just want to share it with your contacts so that other people can get blessed as well. So as we go this week, you just have to remember, if you are so quick in listing what you have done wrong and are tabling what you've done right or wrong, you know that's not the way to go...

Peter: There's a deeper reason for why you did wrong... that's it... there's a deeper reason for that

Anchor Lady: So you need to realign and put the Father in focus, putting that this is against the Father...

Peter: ...do we take Him at his word? Did we believe what He said about our lives?

Anchor Lady: So he that doubted is...sin

Peter: That's good. Now, there's something you just said before we actually leave out on this episode... Romans chapter 14, I think the last verse, it said if we didn't trust what the Father said, if you didn't trust what the Word of God says about your life, it doesn't matter what you do after that, it said whatever you do after that is sin!

Anchor Lady: It says *"He that doubted is damned even if he eats because of whatever is done out of faith is sin..."*

Peter: Because you doubted what He said about you. I mean... like I said the other time, we are more concerned about what is right and what is wrong... God is not concerned about what is right and what is wrong. There's something—please pardon me before we close on this episode...

Anchor Lady: Time....okay...

Peter: When Adam fell in the garden of Eden with his wife, if you notice, when God came in the cool of the garden, and God said Adam where are you, and Adam said to God, I was afraid, I was naked...and I went to hide myself...now, when God asked the next question, I thought God was going to say, *Adam, that's true. You knew you're naked, you actually should hide yourself. That's the very good thing to do, you had to cover yourself up.* Now, know, what God said to Adam was *"Who told you?"* God ignored, if you might put it in a way, the expertise of Adam... or the good thinking of Adam... or the fact that Adam was very very sensible to cover up his nakedness. God bypassed that activity of Adam and God was more concerned about, *I need to know where you got the revelation from. Who told you? What informed your activity?* God is more interested in what informs our activity rather than the activity. So, that's why God is not so keen on did we do the right thing or did we do the wrong thing, it's about *Where did that revelation come from?* So What we are simply saying today is the younger son in this Luke 15 parable in verse 18 understood that his repentance is about the Father—it's about the fact that he actually didn't trust the identity that the Father gave him...and that's all about the bottom line of repentance.

Anchor Lady: I'm afraid of saying anything more because it might lead us into another Bible verse...and this would not...it doesn't seem to have an end. So till we see you next week, I just hope you are going to continue with us and you're going to continue putting the Father back in focus—

Peter: ...yes, it's about Him...it's about Him...

Anchor Lady: ...remembering what He said, putting Him in focus...so till we see you next week, we want to say, byeee...

Peter: Bye. Look forward to seeing you on the next episode. God bless you.

Anchor Lady: ...Bye

Peter: ...Bye.

