



The Lighthouse Church

# The Midnight Cry: Are You Ready?

a 7-day prayer and fasting devotional based on the end times

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**H**ey Family. It has been 227 days since we ended our 21 days of fasting in January, where we focused on “This is Church” and studied the seven churches in Revelation. Now, the Elders feel it is necessary to call a 7-day fast this September, to ready us for the midnight cry, inspired by the parable of the wise and foolish

virgins in Matthew 25:1–13. We believe this fast is a call to awaken, to keep our lamps filled with oil, and to prepare ourselves afresh for the return of Christ.

It is all too easy to drift, to become entangled with the cares of life, and to forget that we are called to live in readiness. My grandmother often spoke and sang about the return of Christ, and it shaped the way she lived, always expectant, always watchful. Our prayer is that during these seven days you will encounter the Lord in a fresh way, and that you will gain a deep conviction to live every moment ready for His return.

The truth is, Christ could return at any moment or call us home when we least expect it. Tomorrow is never guaranteed, though many live as if it is. I’m inspired by Stephen in Acts 7, who, even as he was being stoned, looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. What a glorious vision to behold! May we live with that same posture, eyes lifted to heaven, hearts set on the risen and victorious King who is coming again for His church. When the midnight cry rings out, will you be ready?

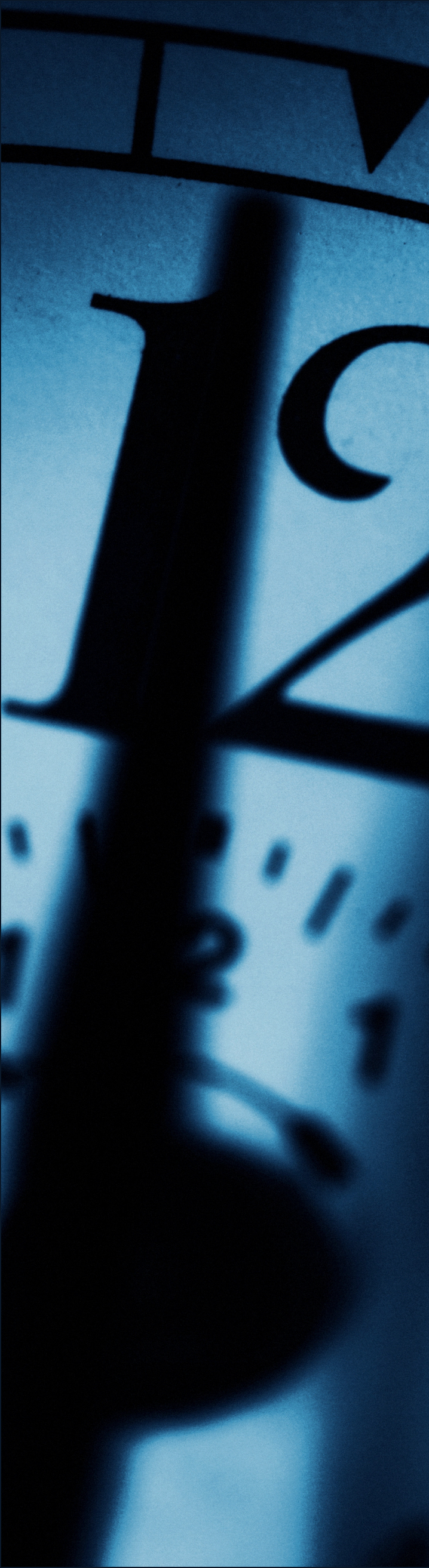
**Ashley Gabriel**

Lead Elder of The Lighthouse Church



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**DAY 1 OF 7**  
MONDAY 8 SEPT 25

# A SPOTLESS AND READY BRIDE

**WRITTEN BY: ASHLEY GABRIEL**

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE:** EPHESIANS 5:27

27 HE DID THIS TO PRESENT HER TO HIMSELF AS A GLORIOUS CHURCH WITHOUT  
A SPOT OR WRINKLE OR ANY OTHER BLEMISH. INSTEAD, SHE WILL BE HOLY AND  
WITHOUT FAULT.



# A SPOTLESS AND READY BRIDE

**DAY 1 OF 7**  
MONDAY 8 SEPT 25

**WRITTEN BY: ASHLEY GABRIEL**

Focus Scripture: Ephesians 5:27

Recently, my wife and I decided to do a deep clean in our home. We emptied drawers and storage spaces where things are often hidden away, creating clutter we hardly notice. As we pulled things from under our bed, my wife found a framed picture from our wedding day. I paused to admire it, reminded of how radiant she looked as a bride.

Over the years, I've officiated many weddings, but I've never seen a bride arrive in a tracksuit or with no preparation. Every bride takes care to be ready for her husband, presenting herself with beauty and joy.

The Bible often uses this picture to describe Christ and His church. In Ephesians 5:25–27 we read that Christ gave Himself up for the church, cleansing her through the washing of the Word, so that He might present her to Himself spotless and pure. Jesus is coming again for His bride, a people made ready for Him. Like the wise virgins in Matthew 25, we are called to live in constant readiness, our lamps filled with oil.

Reflection:

Am I preparing for Christ's return by letting His Word and Spirit transform me? Am I living daily with the expectation of His coming?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be like the five wise virgins, watchful, prepared, and filled with Your Spirit. Keep me holy and devoted, that I may be found spotless and ready for the return of my Bridegroom.



**DAY 2 OF 7**

TUESDAY 9 SEPT 25

# THE JOURNEY OF WISDOM

**WRITTEN BY: JOEL FADOJUTIMI**

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE:** MATTHEW 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> “ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO MY TEACHING AND FOLLOWS IT IS WISE, LIKE A PERSON WHO BUILDS A HOUSE ON SOLID ROCK. <sup>25</sup> THOUGH THE RAIN COMES IN TORRENTS AND THE FLOODWATERS RISE AND THE WINDS BEAT AGAINST THAT HOUSE, IT WON’T COLLAPSE BECAUSE IT IS BUILT ON BEDROCK. <sup>26</sup> BUT ANYONE WHO HEARS MY TEACHING AND DOESN’T OBEY IT IS FOOLISH, LIKE A PERSON WHO BUILDS A HOUSE ON SAND. <sup>27</sup> WHEN THE RAINS AND FLOODS COME AND THE WINDS BEAT AGAINST THAT HOUSE, IT WILL COLLAPSE WITH A MIGHTY CRASH.”



DAY 2 OF 7

TUESDAY 9 SEPT 25

# THE JOURNEY OF WISDOM

WRITTEN BY: JOEL FADOJUTIMI

Focus Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

The bible makes reference to “wise virgins” and “foolish virgins” in Matt 25 but does not shed a lot of light in that passage about what made them wise or foolish, however Jesus had clarified earlier in his ministry the difference between them. To be able to take this journey of wisdom, we ought to start right from the beginning as all great journeys do. Solomon teaches us in Prov 9:10 that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom! This is fascinating because it reveals something profound: you can acquire vast knowledge through study, experience, and education and still remain a fool in the sight of God. Reverence and total submission to the Lord is greater wisdom than anything the world can offer. Therefore, our highest priority must be this: to know Him.

Jesus teaches us the next step in the journey of Wisdom, which is hearing and obedience to the words of God. I believe the biggest misconception about wisdom is that it is just the ability to recall complex facts or understand deep concepts. Wisdom is as practical as it gets!

The way to identify a wise person is to watch their lives. The foolish man that became ruined through the storms of life may have been one that spent much time studying the word and praying but he never became wise because it didn’t impact the way he lived.

Fools will not be able to stand in the last days. The worries and cares of this world will sweep them away. It will take a wise builder who is diligent in knowing the Lord and applying His word to their life that will stand in the evil days. When the bridegroom comes I pray that we would have mastered a lifestyle of wisdom.

Reflection:

**Mind** - Has my intentions and thought life been transformed through knowing Christ? Do I still entertain thoughts of lust, anger, jealousy, bitterness, anxiety or condemnation?

**Speech** - Is my speech seasoned with salt? Do I gossip, slander, swear, abuse, take part in coarse joking or tell lies?

**Actions** - Do my actions represent Christ appropriately? Do I exhibit the fruits of the Spirit with every one I encounter? (Gal 5:22)

Prayer:

May we commit ourselves to this journey of wisdom—knowing Him, obeying Him, and living ready for His return.



**DAY 3 OF 7**  
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPT 25

# THE WAITING PERIOD

**WRITTEN BY: JOSHUA ETIENNE**

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE:** MATTHEW 25:5

**<sup>5</sup> WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM WAS DELAYED, THEY ALL BECAME DROWSY AND FELL ASLEEP.**



# THE WAITING PERIOD

**DAY 3 OF 7**  
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPT 25

**WRITTEN BY: JOSHUA ETIENNE**

Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:5

I remember preparing for my wedding day, the joy, excitement, and expectation of marrying my wife. Months of planning led up to that moment, and though we were eager, we had to wait. At one point, unexpected circumstances threatened to delay our wedding. I felt frustrated and disappointed because all I wanted was to be married. Still, during that time, we had a responsibility to remain pure, committed, and focused on the goal ahead becoming one.

In Matthew 25:5, the bridegroom was delayed, and both the wise and foolish virgins fell asleep. Waiting can breed impatience, complacency, and frustration. My children, when waiting for a treat, often become upset if it doesn't come instantly. Yet, it's in the waiting that their character is tested and ours too.

As believers, we often dislike waiting seasons. We want answers now. But what we do during the delay matters deeply. In Exodus 32, the Israelites, growing impatient while Moses was on the mountain, abandoned God's command (Exodus 20) and built a golden calf. They didn't stay faithful in the wait.

Will we trust God even when nothing is happening? Waiting tests our devotion. Even in delay, His Word still stands. Let us remain faithful, stay pure, and trust Him and stand on his word knowing his promised return is approaching. 2 Peter 3:9 says The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

Reflection:

Are there any Idol's that we have resurrected in our lives that need to be torn down? 1 John 5:21

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for being patient with us. We repent if we've let anything block our relationship with you. Help us to stay committed to you, to want to learn your ways, and to follow the path you have for us.

**DAY 4 OF 7**  
THURSDAY 11 SEPT 25

# STAY EXPECTANT

**WRITTEN BY: DELE BAMGBOYE**

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE:** MATTHEW 25:5

**<sup>5</sup> WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM WAS DELAYED, THEY ALL BECAME DROWSY AND FELL ASLEEP.**



**DAY 4 OF 7**

THURSDAY 11 SEPT 25

# STAY EXPECTANT

**WRITTEN BY: DELE BAMGBOYE**

Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:5

I remember my childhood, when my parents gradually entrusted me with responsibilities, eventually leaving me home alone or with my sister. Before leaving in the mornings, my mum would always give me a few instructions, with one standing out: "make sure you bring out the frozen meat or stew." This particular instruction resonated with many young people as people knew what was to follow. For those unfamiliar, let me explain...

After hours of playing, eating, and eventually napping, I'd hear the distinct sound of my mum's key in the door. At that precise moment, my heart would leap! I had forgotten the very task I was given. Despite knowing my mum would return, and even if I didn't know the exact time, I had allowed my sense of time and my slumber to catch me off guard.

Jesus' parable highlights how easily we set things aside when expectations aren't met. The bridesmaids, expecting the bridegroom at a certain time, grew drowsy and fell asleep when he was "delayed" and didn't arrive as "expected," rather than staying ready.

This can happen with our walks if we do not stay on guard. We may get complacent because Jesus hasn't returned yet. We begin to think "I don't have to pray as much now" or "I can get back into the Word later in life." But Paul says in Romans 13:11 "Do this knowing that the **hour has come**. It is time for you to **awaken from sleep**. For our **salvation is nearer** to us now than it was when we first began to believe"

So as each day passes by, we must remember we are getting closer and closer to Jesus's return and we do not want to be caught out.

Reflection:

How am I living my life?

Do I live my life in anticipation of Jesus Christ's return?

What areas of my life have I drifted asleep?

Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for your constant reminders through your Word of the imminent return of your Son Jesus. Lord help us to be ready for your return. Highlight the areas we need to wake up and grant us the grace to take action. Amen

# BE READY AND PREPARED

WRITTEN BY: JASON WILSON

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE:** MATTHEW 25:3–9; \*LUKE 12:35–40

<sup>3</sup> THE FIVE WHO WERE FOOLISH DIDN'T TAKE ENOUGH OLIVE OIL FOR THEIR LAMPS, <sup>4</sup> BUT THE OTHER FIVE WERE WISE ENOUGH TO TAKE ALONG EXTRA OIL. <sup>5</sup> WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM WAS DELAYED, THEY ALL BECAME DROWSY AND FELL ASLEEP.

<sup>6</sup> "AT MIDNIGHT THEY WERE ROUSED BY THE SHOUT, 'LOOK, THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING! COME OUT AND MEET HIM!'

<sup>7</sup> "ALL THE BRIDESMAIDS GOT UP AND PREPARED THEIR LAMPS. <sup>8</sup> THEN THE FIVE FOOLISH ONES ASKED THE OTHERS, 'PLEASE GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL BECAUSE OUR LAMPS ARE GOING OUT.'

<sup>9</sup> "BUT THE OTHERS REPLIED, 'WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US. GO TO A SHOP AND BUY SOME FOR YOURSELVES.'

\*Luke 12:35-40 not sited



# BE READY AND PREPARED

WRITTEN BY: JASON WILSON

Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:3–9; Luke 12:35–40

I'm reminded of a time I went to fill my car with petrol but forgot my bank card. I had driven all the way only to realise I couldn't pay. I couldn't simply ask strangers to lend me money, I was unprepared. Thankfully, someone at home could bring my card, but I wondered what if no one had been there. Even minor mistakes can cause major issues, so it's really important to plan ahead..

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells of ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom. Five were wise and carried extra oil, but five were foolish and unprepared. When the bridegroom came, the foolish asked to borrow oil, yet the wise could not share. By the time they went to get their own, the door was shut. This echoes Luke 12, where Jesus urges us to keep our lamps burning, for the Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour.

The lesson: **faith cannot be borrowed**. We cannot rely on our pastor's devotion, friends or even our family. Our faith must be personal, genuine, and cultivated through daily obedience. This is why Paul says in **Philippians 2:12** "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your **own** salvation with fear and trembling".

When Christ returns, it will be too late to scramble for borrowed faith. Today is the time to keep our lamps filled through prayer, scripture, and faithful living.

Reflection:

Am I cultivating a personal walk with Jesus?

If He returned today, would my lamp be burning?

Prayer:

Lord, help me live ready for Your return, with faith that is genuine and my own. Amen.

**DAY 6 OF 7**

SATURDAY 13 SEPT 25

# THE RETURN OF THE BRIDEGROOM

**WRITTEN BY: MARVIN JOHNSON**

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE:** MATTHEW 25:10

<sup>10</sup> “BUT WHILE THEY WERE GONE TO BUY OIL, THE BRIDEGROOM CAME. THEN THOSE WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE MARRIAGE FEAST, AND THE DOOR WAS LOCKED. <sup>11</sup> LATER, WHEN THE OTHER FIVE BRIDESMAIDS RETURNED, THEY STOOD OUTSIDE, CALLING, ‘LORD! LORD! OPEN THE DOOR FOR US!’



**DAY 6 OF 7**

SATURDAY 13 SEPT 25

# THE RETURN OF THE BRIDEGROOM

**WRITTEN BY: MARVIN JOHNSON**

Focus Scripture: Matt. 25:10

When I was young, growing up in church, I often heard prophetic words about Jesus' return. The way it was spoken made it feel as though He could come that very same day. As a child, this made me nervous and unsettled. I would wonder, "Am I ready?" But as time passed and I grew older, that sense of urgency faded. Life carried on, and the return of Jesus became less of a focus.

Yet the Word of God does not fade. In Matthew 25, Jesus warns that when the bridegroom came, only those who were ready entered the banquet and the door was shut. This is not a parable to be taken lightly. It is a sober reminder that readiness is not optional. We do not know the day or the hour when Christ will return, or when our own earthly life will end.

Readiness is not about living in fear, but in holy seriousness. It means guarding our walk with Christ, keeping our lamps filled with the oil of faith, prayer, and obedience. The time will come suddenly, and there will be no opportunity to prepare at the last moment. The question is not if He will return, but whether we will be ready when He does.

But there is hope! Christ has not left us without a way to be prepared. To be ready is to live each day surrendered to Him, trusting in His saving work on the cross, walking in repentance, and relying on the Holy Spirit for strength. If we remain watchful and faithful, His return will not catch us by surprise but will be our greatest joy, as we enter into the banquet prepared for those who love Him.

Reflection:

If the door were to close today, would I be inside or outside?

What areas of my life show a lack of readiness for Christ's return?

How can I cultivate urgency in my walk without delay?]

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, please awaken my spirit to the seriousness of Your return. Forgive me where I have grown complacent. Help me to live ready each day, keeping my lamp burning with faith and obedience. May I not be caught unprepared, but found faithful when You come. In Jesus name Amen.

**DAY 7 OF 7**  
SUNDAY 14 SEPT 25

# KEEP WATCH

**WRITTEN BY: ASHLEY GABRIEL**

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE:** MATTHEW 25:13

<sup>13</sup> “SO YOU, TOO, MUST KEEP WATCH! FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW THE DAY OR HOUR  
OF MY RETURN.



# KEEP WATCH

**DAY 7 OF 7**  
SUNDAY 14 SEPT 25

**WRITTEN BY: ASHLEY GABRIEL**

Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:13

On a recent trip to Belfast to visit a friend who had planted a church, I discovered something I hadn't known before: the Titanic was built there. We visited the Titanic Museum, and walking through the exhibits was both informative and deeply moving.

The Titanic took over two years to build and was celebrated as the largest and most luxurious ship of its time. In April 1912, it set sail on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, carrying more than 2,200 passengers and crew. But on the night of April 14, the "unsinkable" ship struck an iceberg. In less than three hours it sank beneath the Atlantic. More than 1,500 people lost their lives, while just over 700 survived.

One of the most haunting details is that a nearby ship, the Californian, might have helped. But its wireless operator had gone to bed and never received Titanic's urgent distress calls. A simple failure to keep watch contributed to the staggering loss of life.

Jesus warns us not to be like that wireless operator. He calls His people to live watchfully, ready for His return. Just as many perished unprepared on the Titanic, so too will many be lost if they do not place their trust in Christ and live each day in anticipation of His coming.

Reflection:

Ships today keep radios on 24 hours a day. Am I keeping my heart awake and watchful for Christ's return?

Prayer:

Lord, keep me alert, not complacent. May I live each moment ready for Your return.