


EPISODE 14 — *A Heart Divided*

Precious sat quietly in her room, her mind unsettled and her emotions still raw from everything that had happened. The silence in the room felt heavy, as though it carried

*"God, you were there. You saw everything. You didn't stop it. So why stop me now?"*

— PRECIOUS, IN HER HEART

memories she could not escape. She had not been to church for two weeks, and even she knew that something inside her was slowly drifting. Her phone suddenly rang, breaking the stillness. She picked it up and saw the name. Ade. She hesitated for a brief moment, then answered. "*Hello… Ade.*"

"*Ah, Precious,*" his voice came lively and warm. "*How you dey? How far?*" "*I'm fine,*" she replied softly. "*I'm doing okay.*" "*Okay ke?*" Ade said with a light laugh. "*I never see you for church for like two weeks now. Wetin dey happen?*" Precious said nothing. There was a short pause. Ade's tone became slightly more serious. "*Precious… wetin dey go on?*" She shifted on the bed, uncomfortable. "*Nothing,*" she said. Ade sighed lightly. "*Don't tell me nothing. I know say your wedding…*" Before he could complete the sentence, Precious cut in sharply. "*Stop that. Please, stop. You wan insult me now?*" "*Ah-ah, no now,*" Ade replied quickly. "*Why I go insult you? You know say you be my princess… my baby girl.*"

There was a soft change in the atmosphere. Precious could not help it. She smiled. "*You always know how to talk,*" she said, her voice lighter now. Ade laughed. "*Na my work.*" Their conversation continued, flowing easily. They joked, laughed, and spoke about random things. Ade had a way of making her forget her troubles, even if only for a while. Precious leaned back on her bed, enjoying the moment. Yet, deep inside her, she knew the truth. Ade was someone she could laugh with. Someone she could pass time with. But not someone she truly saw as a husband. That place in her heart was still occupied by Uche.

She became quiet for a moment. "*God…*" she thought within herself. "*Is this right?*" Even before the thought settled, she already knew the answer. It was not right. But this time, she chose not to listen. It was as though she deliberately shut the door against that inner voice. In her heart, it felt like she was hearing God speak, correcting her, calling her back. But she

resisted. "*God,*" she said silently within herself, almost in frustration, "*you were there. You saw everything that happened. You saw my wedding scatter. You didn't stop it. So why do you want to stop me now from enjoying my life?*" Her expression hardened slightly. "*What is even left?*" she muttered under her breath.

Then suddenly, she remembered she was still on the call. "*Hello? You still dey there?*" Ade asked. "*Yes, yes, I'm here,*" she replied quickly. They both laughed and continued talking. After a while, Ade said, "*Make you come church this Sunday.*" Precious hesitated. "*I don't think I can.*" "*Try now,*" he insisted. "*No run from God like that.*" She smiled faintly. "*Okay... will you come and pick me?*" Ade laughed. "*If na wetin you want, I go come.*" "*Alright,*" she said softly. They spoke a little longer before ending the call. The room became quiet again, but this time, her heart was not at rest. She was smiling, yet something inside her knew she was walking a dangerous path.

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## THE WEALTHY VISITOR

At the same time, in another part of the city, a different scene was unfolding. Loveth sat quietly in her parents' living room, her posture straight but her mind far away. A visitor had come. Not just any visitor. A wealthy man. His name was Chief Ejike. He had arrived with presence and confidence, carrying himself like a man who knew exactly what he wanted. The items he brought filled the room. Everything on the marriage list had been provided without hesitation. Loveth's mother was visibly pleased. Her father nodded in quiet approval. "*This is how it should be,*" her mother said with satisfaction. "*A responsible man.*"

Loveth forced a small smile, but her heart was unsettled. Chief Ejike moved closer, attempting to hold her hand as he spoke. "*You are a very beautiful woman,*" he said smoothly.

Loveth gently shifted her hand away. Her mother noticed immediately and gave her a sharp look. The message was clear. Behave yourself. Loveth adjusted herself and forced cooperation, though her discomfort remained. "*Yes, sir,*" she replied quietly. Inside her, everything resisted. She did not want this. Her heart still belonged elsewhere. To Uche. But she said nothing. She kept it hidden. She played along.

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### A WEB QUIETLY TIGHTENING

Everyone in that room believed they were making the right decision. Each person acted according to what they thought was wisdom. Yet beneath it all, there was deception. Silent deception. Loveth did not tell Uche what was happening. Her parents did not consider her heart. And Uche himself was already entangled in confusion elsewhere. It was a quiet web, slowly tightening around all of them. Each person moving in their own direction. Each person convinced they were right. And yet, step by step, they were drifting further away from what was true. The stage was set. And the consequences were drawing closer.

> *"Each person convinced they were right. And yet, step by step, they were drifting further from what was true."*

✦ ***Watch Out for the Next Episode*** ✦