

The wedding between Precious and Ade became one of the happiest events their families had witnessed in many years. From the early hours of the

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>
> — ADE TO PRECIOUS

morning, the atmosphere was already filled with excitement.

Women moved around with trays of food and decorations while men arranged chairs and canopies outside the church compound. Music echoed from loudspeakers, children ran around laughing, and relatives who had not seen one another in years reunited joyfully.

Precious sat quietly inside the bridal room while makeup artists worked on her face. Her mother stood behind her, staring at her reflection in the mirror with emotional eyes.

THE BRIDAL ROOM

> "My daughter is finally getting married," her mother whispered. Precious smiled softly. "Mama, why are you crying again?" Her mother laughed through tears. "Na tears of joy. You don't know wetin this your matter do me."

A few moments later, her father entered the room slowly, dressed in a beautiful senator outfit. When he saw Precious in her wedding gown, he stopped moving for a moment.

> "Jesus…" he whispered softly. "See my daughter." Precious stood up immediately and hugged him tightly. Her father shook his head emotionally. "You suffered," he said quietly. "But God no shame us." Precious smiled. "God has been faithful."

Her father looked at her carefully. "You remember when you almost gave up?" She nodded slowly. "But see you today," he continued. "Never doubt God again." Tears gathered in Precious' eyes. "I won't, Daddy."

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

Outside the church, Ade was already waiting nervously with his groomsmen. One of them laughed loudly. "Ade, calm down. Na marriage you wan do, no be operation." Ade adjusted his suit anxiously.

> "You no understand. If you see how beautiful this girl be today, your blood pressure go rise too." Everybody burst into laughter.

The wedding service began shortly afterward. The choir ministered powerfully. Family members danced into the church joyfully. Then finally, the church doors opened. Precious stepped in beside her father. The entire congregation stood up immediately.

A soft murmur spread across the church. "She's beautiful…" "Wow…" "Ade don finish today…"

Ade stared at her emotionally from the altar. For a brief moment, he remembered the night he carried her half dead to the hospital after her suicide attempt. He remembered the tears. The depression. The confusion. And now she was walking toward him in a wedding gown. He wiped his eyes quickly before anybody noticed.

> *"You are crying already?" Ade whispered back, "If I start now, nobody fit stop me." She laughed quietly.*

The pastor began the wedding proceedings. As the vows continued, both families listened emotionally. "Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her…" "I will," Ade answered confidently. Then it was Precious' turn. "Will you love him, honor him, respect him…" Precious looked directly into Ade's eyes. "I will." The church erupted in applause.

> *"You may kiss your bride." The congregation shouted excitedly. "Ayyyy!" Ade moved closer slowly while Precious laughed shyly. Then he kissed her gently. The church exploded with celebration.*

People clapped loudly. Some shouted. Others whistled. Her mother covered her face laughing. "Chai! My daughter don marry!" The reception afterward became even more joyful. Music filled the atmosphere. People danced endlessly.

"Thank you for not giving up on me." Ade looked at her seriously. "I loved you even when you didn't know."

Ade and Precious moved from table to table greeting guests while photographers followed them everywhere. At one point, Ade leaned close to her ear. "You know say I still never believe this thing." Precious smiled. "Which thing?" "That you are now my wife." She laughed softly. "Better believe it quickly."

He shook his head dramatically. "If person tell me that day when I carry you go hospital say I go marry you, I for argue tire." She smiled warmly and held his hand. That night became one of the happiest nights of their lives.

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UCHE & ZINA

Months later, life moved forward. Precious settled beautifully into marriage. But somewhere else, another marriage was already struggling.

Evangelist Uche eventually married Zina, the fiery prayer warrior he met on the mountain. The wedding itself was simple and quiet compared to the grand celebration of Precious and Ade. His ministry had reduced drastically. Many crusades stopped. The invitations became fewer. Financial struggles increased.

Still, he convinced himself that marrying Zina would help revive his spiritual life. At first, everything seemed peaceful. Zina prayed constantly. She fasted frequently. She organized online prayer meetings almost every day. But after only two months of marriage, Uche began noticing serious problems.

THE RING LIGHT

One evening, he returned home exhausted after moving around all day searching for financial support for a program. As he entered the sitting room, he stopped. Shoes were scattered everywhere. Dirty plates covered the center table. A cooking pot sat directly on the sofa. His suit jacket was hanging on the television stand.

And inside the middle of the mess sat Zina with a ring light before her. "Fire of the Holy Ghost!" she shouted into her phone camera. "Type Amen!" Thousands of comments rolled across her live session. Uche stared quietly. He was tired, hungry and frustrated. But he said nothing.

> He quietly entered the kitchen. No food. He checked the fridge. Only soft drinks and bottled water. He inhaled deeply. "Zina?" She raised one finger

without looking at him. "One minute." Then she continued shouting into her phone. "Every witch attacking your destiny shall die by fire!"

One hour later, the online session finally ended. Zina stretched comfortably. "Jesus moved mightily today," she said proudly. Uche looked at her carefully. "Food nko?" "Oh," she replied casually. "I forgot to cook."

"You forgot?" "Yes. The Spirit moved strongly during the live broadcast." Uche laughed bitterly. "The Spirit moved so much that everybody for house go die of hunger?"

Zina frowned immediately. "What do you mean by that?" Uche stood up angrily. "Since I marry you, na only ring light, camera, online prayer, online prayer! You no dey care about house. You no dey care about me. Everywhere scattered!"

Zina crossed her arms. "So because I marry you now, make I abandon my calling?" "That is not what I said!" "Then wetin you dey say?" Uche pointed around the room. "Look this house!" She hissed lightly. "House no be heaven."

Uche stared at her in disbelief. Zina stepped closer confidently. "Listen to me carefully. Marriage no mean say woman go kill her destiny because of man. God called me before I met you." Uche became speechless. She continued boldly. "I will fulfill my assignment. I will preach to nations. I will not reduce myself because of marriage."

Uche wanted to react harshly. At one point, anger rose inside him strongly. His hand almost lifted. But suddenly he remembered the words God spoke to him on the mountain.

"The second will not be as the first." Immediately his hand dropped. He sat down slowly. He was heartbroken.

Because deep inside him, he knew something painful. No matter what happened, Zina could never be Precious. Precious was gentle, calm, respectful, supportive and prayerful without pride. He covered his face with both hands.

Meanwhile Zina carried her phone again. "Tonight by 10 PM we continue our midnight prayers!" she announced excitedly online. Uche stared at her

silently. His heart became heavy.

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THE SUPERMARKET

That same evening, he left the house frustrated. Since there was no food, he decided to buy something outside. As he walked toward a supermarket nearby, he suddenly froze. A car had just parked outside. Then Ade stepped out first. Moments later, Precious came out carefully holding her stomach. She was pregnant.

Uche's heart sank immediately. Ade held her protectively. "Careful," he said softly. Precious smiled. "I'm pregnant, not disabled." Both of them laughed. They were discussing baby items happily while walking toward the supermarket entrance. Then suddenly they saw him. Uche. Everybody stopped moving. Silence filled the atmosphere briefly.

Uche stared at Precious' stomach painfully. His chest tightened immediately. That could have been his child. Before anybody realized what was happening, he suddenly knelt down publicly.

> "Precious…" he said emotionally. "Please forgive me." She became uncomfortable instantly. "Uche, stand up." But he shook his head. "I hurt you badly. I destroyed everything."

Ade watched quietly beside her. Uche continued speaking with tears in his eyes. "I thought I was wise. I thought I knew what I was doing. But I ruined my life." He pointed weakly backward. "My marriage…" he said painfully. "Nothing dey inside. Nothing." His voice broke. "I punished myself."

✦ THE FORGIVENESS ✦

People around began watching curiously. Precious felt uncomfortable. "Please stand up," she repeated quietly. But Uche continued crying. "It's because of what I did to you. God punished me."

Precious sighed deeply. Old memories flooded back suddenly. The rejection, the insults, the depression, the sleepless nights, the suicide attempt and everything. Part of her still hurt deeply. She turned away slightly. But Ade touched her gently.

"Babe," he said softly. "Forgive am." She looked at him. Ade continued calmly. "God forgave us too." She remained silent. "Don't carry bitterness. Leave everything for God."

Those words touched her deeply. Tears gathered in her eyes immediately. For years she had carried hidden pain inside her heart. Slowly she looked back at Uche. He was still kneeling publicly, broken and ashamed. She inhaled deeply.

"Uche…" He lifted his head immediately. "I forgive you." The words hit him deeply. His shoulders relaxed instantly. "Thank you…" he whispered emotionally. "Stand up," she said softly. He stood slowly. "May God help your marriage." "Amen," he replied weakly.

Then Ade gently held Precious' waist. Both of them entered the supermarket together. Uche remained standing outside watching them disappear inside. His eyes filled again with jealousy, regret, pain and loneliness. Everything mixed together inside him.

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THE NIGHT'S TEMPTATIONS

Later that night, confusion overwhelmed him completely. He entered a nearby bar. Music blasted loudly. People laughed carelessly around him. A waiter approached him. "What will you take, sir?" Uche looked at the bottles of alcohol. For a moment, temptation rose strongly. Maybe drinking would help him forget.

But immediately he imagined somebody recognizing him. "Evangelist Uche dey drink?" He stood up immediately. "No. Forget it." He left.

Still restless, he wandered toward a hotel area. Several women stood outside smiling at men passing by. One lady approached him seductively. "Fine man, you dey alone?" Uche looked at her silently. His mind was scattered. Maybe sin would help him forget the pain. Maybe pleasure would numb his regrets. The lady held his hand gently. "Come inside." He followed her halfway.

But suddenly he stopped walking. Something inside him screamed no. He removed his hand immediately. "I can't." The lady frowned. "You dey waste person time." "I'm sorry." He turned and left quickly.

He removed his clothes slowly. Lay down on the bed. And stared into darkness.

When he finally returned home late that night, he met Zina again sitting before her ring light. She was counseling people online. "My sister, leave that man and focus on your destiny," she was saying passionately. Uche stared at her tiredly. Then without speaking, he entered the bedroom quietly.

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✦ WATCH OUT FOR THE NEXT EPISODE ✦

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