



Message Date: 30/08/2026 Lighthouse Meeting Date: 1/09/2026	Message Title: SUDDENLY Minister: Pastor Chuka Nwafor
Key Texts: 1. Job 1:13–19, Psalm 90:11–12, Psalm 39:4–6, Ecclesiastes 3:1–8, Ecclesiastes 9:12, Proverbs 27:1, James 4:13–17, Ephesians 5:14–18, James 4:17, Ecclesiastes 11:9–10, Ecclesiastes 12:1–14	Sub Text:
<i>Please read the entire document and bible texts before you begin to discuss and answer the related questions. This will help you grasp the overall context of the message, however, remember the bible is not a discussion book but a decision book. God honours and empowers your decisions not your discussions.</i> <u>INTRODUCTION:</u> There is a word that interrupts plans, silences laughter, and rewrites the future in a single breath: “suddenly”. No one wakes up expecting it, a diagnosis, an accident, a phone call in the night, a life cut short. Job's story reminds us that disaster does not send an appointment reminder (Job 1:13–19). This study confronts the reality that life is saturated with "suddenly," and calls us to respond not with fear, but with readiness, living each day in a posture of surrender, service, and dependence on God. Historical/Biblical Context Job lost his children, servants, and livestock within moments of each other, four messengers arriving back-to-back, each beginning with "while he was yet speaking" (Job 1:13–19). Nothing in Job's routine that morning signaled catastrophe. Centuries later, Moses would pray for wisdom to number our days (Psalm 90:12), and Jesus would tell a parable about a man who planned decades ahead but was told, "This night your soul shall be required of you" (Luke 12:20). Across Scripture, God repeatedly confronts human presumption about tomorrow, not to produce anxiety, but to produce wisdom, urgency, and surrendered hearts.	
KEY POINT ONE: Life Is Saturated With "Suddenly", And It Can Happen to Anyone Job was blameless and upright, yet calamity struck him without warning, one messenger after another (Job 1:13–19). Sudden illness, sudden loss, sudden tragedy, these do not discriminate based on character, wealth, or preparation. No weather forecast exists for the storms of life; if it did, "suddenly" would cease to exist. This is not a call to despair, but a sober reminder that none of	

us are exempt from life's uncertainty.

Scripture Focus: Job 1:13–19

Digging Deep/Life Application: Job's disaster came in the middle of an ordinary day , there was no warning sign to heed. This means readiness cannot be reactive; it must be a lifestyle. Ask yourself: if calamity struck my life or family this week, would my relationship with God, my finances, my relationships, and my spiritual house be in order? Use this week to close any gaps, reconcile a relationship, get right with God, put your affairs in order, not out of fear, but out of wisdom.

KEY POINT TWO: We Don't Know What Tomorrow Holds, So Stop Procrastinating

Moses prayed for a heart of wisdom precisely because our days are numbered and fleeting (Psalm 90:11–12). David described his life as "a mere breath" and admitted that people are anxious over things that may vanish before they can even enjoy them (Psalm 39:4–6, AMPC). James rebukes the presumption of saying "today or tomorrow we will go... and do this or that," reminding us that life itself is "a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes" (James 4:13–17). We plan vacations a year in advance, yet postpone what matters most to God, assuming tomorrow is guaranteed.

Scripture Focus: Psalm 90:11–12; Psalm 39:4–6 (AMPC); James 4:13–17

Digging Deep/Life Application: Think of one thing you have said "I'll get to it tomorrow" about for weeks, months, or even years. Now imagine tomorrow never arrives. Numbering our days is not about morbid fixation on death, it's about applying wisdom to how we spend today. Pick one procrastinated task (a phone call, an apology, a decision to follow God more closely) and do it before this week ends.

KEY POINT THREE: Nothing Is Guaranteed Apart From God's Grace and Mercy

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that there is "a time for every purpose under heaven", birth and death, planting and uprooting, all appointed. Every breath we take today is not owed to us; it is granted. Apart from the grace and mercy of God, tomorrow, even the next hour, is not promised to anyone.

Scripture Focus: Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

Digging Deep/Life Application: Because every season is appointed by God and not guaranteed to us in advance, gratitude should replace entitlement. Instead of treating today as "just another day," treat it as evidence of God's mercy toward you personally. Begin each morning this week by verbally thanking God for the gift of that specific day before you ask Him for anything else.

KEY POINT FOUR: Redeem the Time, Don't Be Found Out of Place When "Suddenly" Comes

Paul instructs believers to walk carefully, "redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:14–18). Consider a 13-year-old seen at a fast-food restaurant at 11 a.m. on a school day, police, parents, and social services would all raise concern, because that child is clearly out of

place, out of season, and out of alignment with where they should be. In the same way, when "suddenly" comes, it exposes where we truly are spiritually, whether we have been walking in the will and timing of God or drifting outside of it.

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 5:14–18

Digging Deep/Life Application: Just as a child's location can expose whether they are where they should be, your daily choices reveal whether you're walking in step with God's timing. Take an honest inventory: is there an area of your life right now, a relationship, a habit, a compromise, where you would be "caught out of place" if God examined it today? Bring that specific area to Him this week and realign it.

KEY POINT FIVE: The Rich Fool Made Plans for Tomorrow, But God Required His Soul Tonight

In Luke 12:13–21, a wealthy man built bigger barns to store his abundance, telling his soul to "take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry" for years to come. That same night, God said, "You fool! This night your soul shall be required of you." He was not condemned for being wealthy, but for being spiritually unprepared, planning for decades while ignoring eternity. His "suddenly" arrived before his plans ever materialized.

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:16–21

Digging Deep/Life Application: The rich fool's error wasn't ambition, it was living as though he had unlimited time to enjoy his blessings before turning his attention to God. Examine your own long-term plans (career, retirement, family goals): are they built with room for God at the center, or is He an afterthought once "life settles down"? Reorder one goal this week so that honoring God is part of the plan now, not later.

KEY POINT SIX: Procrastinated Service to God Often Never Resumes

Many say, "Once I finish this project, I'll have time to serve God", yet after the project ends, another personal issue arises, and service to God is delayed again. This cycle repeats until regret sets in: "If only I had done this... if only I had known." Ecclesiastes urges the young and old alike to remember their Creator before the difficult days come, before strength fades and time runs out (Ecclesiastes 11:9–10; 12:1–7). Life's conclusion is clear: "Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14).

Scripture Focus: Ecclesiastes 11:9–12; 12:1–14

Digging Deep/Life Application: Notice the pattern: one delay leads to another, and the "right time" to serve God never actually arrives on its own. Regret is the fruit of postponed obedience. Rather than waiting for a completely clear schedule, identify one small way you can serve God this week in the midst of your current responsibilities, not after them.

KEY POINT SEVEN: Decide Today, You Will Give an Account of Your Life

Delaying obedience to God is a gamble no one can afford. Every person will one day give an account of how they lived (Ecclesiastes 12:14). It would be presumptuous to expect God to "keep a pension" for those who never served Him with their life while they had breath. Today not tomorrow, not "after the project," not "once things settle down", is the day to decide, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Scripture Focus: Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

Digging Deep/Life Application: Accountability is not optional, every life will be reviewed before God. Rather than living passively and hoping things work out spiritually, make a definite, spoken decision today (not a vague intention) to serve the Lord with your household, your time, and your resources. Say it out loud, write it down, and tell someone who can hold you to it.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

"Suddenly" is not a threat, it is a wake-up call. Job's tragedy, the rich fool's barns, and James' warning against presumption all point to the same truth: life is fragile, brief, and entirely held together by the grace and mercy of God. The only right response is not fear, but readiness, deciding today, without delay, to walk in obedience and wholehearted service to the Lord.

PROMISES OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. WHEN LIFE SUDDENLY CHANGES, GOD'S PRESENCE REMAINS CONSTANT. ISAIAH 43:2; PSALM 23:4.
2. WHEN I CANNOT CONTROL WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND ME, I CAN RUN TO THE GOD WHO IS GREATER THAN WHAT IS HAPPENING. PSALM 46:1–2; PSALM 91:1–2.
3. GOD WILL GIVE ME WISDOM TO LIVE TODAY IN A WAY THAT HONOURS HIM. JAMES 1:5; PSALM 90:12.
4. WHATEVER SEASON I ENTER, GOD'S GRACE WILL BE ENOUGH FOR WHAT HE HAS CALLED ME TO FACE. 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9; HEBREWS 4:16.
5. EVEN WHEN PEOPLE, CIRCUMSTANCES OR PLANS CHANGE SUDDENLY, GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL. DEUTERONOMY 31:8; HEBREWS 13:5.
6. I MAY NOT KNOW WHAT TOMORROW HOLDS, BUT I CAN TRUST THE ONE WHO ALREADY SEES TOMORROW. PROVERBS 3:5–6; PSALM 32:8.
7. MY EARTHLY LIFE IS TEMPORARY, BUT IN CHRIST I HAVE THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE. JOHN 3:16; JOHN 11:25–26; 1 JOHN 2:25

PRAYERS: PRAYER POINTS OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Pray for grace to live prepared, not presuming upon tomorrow.
2. Pray for the courage to stop procrastinating obedience and service to God.
3. Pray for comfort and strength for anyone facing a sudden tragedy or loss.

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| 4. Pray for a heart, like Joshua's, fully decided to serve the Lord starting today. |
| 5. Pray for wisdom to number your days and live with eternal perspective. |
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For further information please contact the admin office or visit (admin@rccg-iccuk.org / 07514 011221)