Monday
Prepare for Attack

'...A brother is born for adversity.' Proverbs 17:17

Every other person cannot be your friend or feel any loyalty to you. Many guys appear like friends, but you may find out, that with such friends, you don’t need an enemy. They laugh with, joke with you and sometimes eat with you, but deep down, they desire to pull you down. One of the lessons of Scripture is that anybody can hurt anybody.

There are three kinds of people you will meet in life. a) The critic - They are the first to point an accusing finger and the last to extend a helping hand. b) The cautious - When you are in trouble they will distance you lest they become tainted by your perceived liabilities. These people are not bad, they’re just self-serving. Don’t put your trust in them. c) The committed - 'A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.' Recognise such people and build your life around them because they are a gift from God.

Tuesday
Kings and Priests

"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." - Revelation 5:10 KJV

The Bible describes two distinct roles in the Old Testament-kings and priests. Kings were the rulers; priests were the religious leaders. However, the New Testament reveals we all are kings and priests because of the redemptive work of Christ. What a privilege. God calls each of us to fulfill both roles in our lives today. What does this mean for us today?

God plants us today where He wants us to represent Him as kings and Priests. The same roles highlighted above are expected of Baptist men who should be there for the Lord. You as King suggests that you will rule your household particularly for Him - nurture, direct and build your household to follow The Lord. And as Priest, it means you are to be the spiritual cover for your household. Let’s live up to this responsibilities.
Wednesday
The Way of the Cross

"... come down from the cross and save yourself!" (Mark 15:30).

God calls each of us to the cross in order for all the things that are alive in our flesh to die. Daily we are invited by the enemy of our souls to love ourselves and come away from the cross. What are the signs that you have come off the cross? When you are overly concerned with appearance. When the words of others cause you to react and defend. When you strive to have your world in perfect order. When you complain about circumstances, you have come off the cross.

The way of the cross means letting go and letting God have His way in every matter, every relationship, every outcome. Allow God to bring you to the cross in the very center of who you are. Don’t grumble and become agitated when the process starts. When you accept the cross simply allow it to do the work God intended. Let the cross have its way in you and me.

Thursday
We Work Together: We Achieve More

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

God put you on Earth to do a certain work that only you can do for Him. He didn’t plan for us to do that work alone. We need people to work with us. The nature of God in man craves for support. Ecclesiastes 4:9 “two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together” (NCV). When you work as a team, you get so much more done.

Picture this - when I light my candle in the dark, and you light yours and everybody lights theirs; ultimately the candle lights becomes a floodlight. No individual will need to carry a heavy burden as each one will do their small part and all the work will get done. As you walk through life, remember that you’re not supposed to do everything on your own. You need other people to walk alongside you, but you also need other people to work alongside you.

Friday
Working Wholeheartedly

“In everything that he undertook in the service of God’s temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.” - 2 Chronicles 31:21

Hezekiah was a godly king. He was also a very talented businessman and builder. He was responsible for many noteworthy projects that are described in detail in the Old Testament. We discover from the passage above that King Hezekiah had two major attributes that contributed to his success and prosperity: He sought God, and he worked wholeheartedly upholding God's laws.

Godly success involves a partnership between you and God. Success in God’s economy means achieving the purpose for which God made you. That purpose can never be discovered without
seeking Him with a whole heart. Are you willing to take the time to know Him? If so, you can be sure He will guide you into those things that will bring success to every aspect of your life.

**Saturday**

**Business as Usual**

"And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." - Luke 2:7

Imagine if the God of the universe decided to visit planet earth as a new baby and you were given the opportunity to host His first night-in your hotel. Think of the future promotional possibilities... "God stayed here His first night!" You could sell tickets to see the room where He was born. What an opportunity to make history as a small-business owner. There was no room for the unexpected miracle; no awareness of what was taking place in the heavenlies, no sign that God might be reaching out to this workplace believer to be used like no other in all of history.

Every day God has need of some man job or market place. He wants to demonstrate miracles in their work. But there is no room in their work for Jesus. He is not asked to participate. That night God slept in a stable. That night a business opportunity from Heaven was missed. It was business as usual. May we all have spiritual eyes and ears to know when our Master needs what He has entrusted to us for His purposes.

**Sunday**

**Recognising the Signs of the Times**

*Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him" (Matt 2:1-2).*

God is looking for leaders who recognise the signs of their times. Such was the case of the wise men who were in tune with their times that they were able to pinpoint when the long awaited Messiah was born. They recognised God had come in their midst. These men were philosophers, priests, or astronomers and lived chiefly in Persia and Arabia. They were marketplace ministers of the Eastern nations.

They came and gave three distinct gifts - each represented a prophetic significance. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They didn’t come to the Lord empty handed. How do you come to the Lord? Like the men of Issachar, who "understood the times and knew what Israel should do," (1 Chron 12:32) the three wise men knew what they were to do because they were aware of God’s activities in their times. Do you recognise God’s activity in your times?