News 22 November 2026 | English article

Today: Lagos Court Bars Jimmy Odukoya From Fountain of Life Pulpit as He Tells Congregation "I've Not Been Served"

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"I heard that there was an injunction against me. I heard. I've not seen it. But I've not been served."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

On Wednesday 18 November 2026, the Lagos State High Court granted interim orders restraining Jimmy Odukoya from presenting himself as senior pastor and spiritual head of the Fountain of Life Church in Ilupeju, Lagos. Four days later, on Sunday 22 November, he stood before his congregation anyway and said he had never even been served the order.

"I heard that there was an injunction against me. I heard. I've not seen it. But I've not been served."

It is the kind of Sunday nobody in that auditorium will forget in a hurry. A church that has buried its founder, watched his children fall out over who should lead it next, and now finds itself arguing about its future in front of a judge - all while the worship service goes on. The Thanksgiving Service planned for 22 November was postponed, though the regular 9 a.M. Worship went ahead - and into the middle of it walked a surprise guest, Bishop Mike Okonkwo, who said he had not slept since 1.30 A.M. Because the Holy Spirit had sent him to bless them.

The dispute spilled into public view on Monday 17 November, when the church's board of trustees announced that Odukoya was no longer recognised as senior pastor with immediate effect. The trustees said the late founder, Pastor Taiwo Odukoya, had left succession instructions naming someone else, and they named Rotimi Okpaise as interim leader. Odukoya, who has led the church since his father's death in August 2023, says he remains the duly appointed senior pastor.

Fountain Of Life Church Crisis: What The Lagos Court Order Says

The interim orders were granted by Justice O.O. Adewunmi-Oshin of the Lagos State High Court in suit no. LD/0126PRA/2026, filed by the Incorporated Trustees of the Fountain of Life Church. They restrain Odukoya from holding himself out as senior pastor or spiritual head, and from interfering with the church's goverance.

The orders were granted ex parte - only one side was heard - so they are a temporary measure, not a final judgment, and his right to challenge them is preserved. The next mention date is 1 December 2026.

Odukoya has not waited for December to fight back. On Friday 20 November he filed his own suit at the Federal High Court in Lagos, challenging the validity of trustee meetings held on 22 January, 28 February and 16 November 2026. He named his sister Tolu Odukoya and seven other church leaders as respondents - a brother and sister on opposite sides of a courtroom over the church their father built.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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