

HOW I WANT TO DIE

3-6-16 (Ted Cunningham)

Songs spoke of unity of the Body of Christ and Christ overcoming death.

"Death is our enemy, Jesus is our Savior, and heaven is our home." Pastor Ted

1. I want my family gathered around me.

Then Jacob called for his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) and said: "Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come. "Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel. Genesis 49:1-2

This gathering of family is for the purpose of blessing the family, picturing a special future for them.

2. I want to bless my family.

All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them, giving each the blessing appropriate to him. Genesis 49:28

Blessings were given by Abraham to his sons based on what was appropriate to them.

Question #2: Why not wait until the day of someone's death and departure to say a blessing over someone?

Question #3: What do you need to say over your children? Over your parents? Over your grandparents?

3. I want to give my family instructions for my funeral and burial.

Then he gave them these instructions: "I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, Genesis 49:29

*** Yeti cooler for Ted and Tim Hawkins comedian funeral video clip

Question #4: Have you thought about instructions to your family for your funeral? If so, what are they? Why have you chosen these instructions? (Tell the story).

4. I want to draw my last breath on my own.

When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people. Genesis 49:33

Question #5: What did Ted mean when he spoke about allowing family members to die as they should, rather than as they could?

5. I want my family to grieve.

Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him. **2** Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the physicians embalmed him, **3** taking a full forty days, for that was the time required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. Genesis 50:1-3

a time to be born and a time to die, Eccl 3:2
a time to mourn and a time to dance, Eccl 3:4

It is better to go to a house of mourning
than to go to a house of feasting,
for death is the destiny of everyone;
the living should take this to heart. Ecclesiastes 7:2

Question #6: Why is it so important for family members to grieve, remember, honor, and cry over the loss of a family member, close friend, and brother and sister in Christ?

Minimizing another's grief is an unbiblical denial of our humanity.

“Don't cry for me.”

“Don't visit my grave.”

“Don't send flowers.”

Grieving is not a sign of spiritual immaturity or a lack of faith.

Funerals are for the living, not the dead.

“Please, say my son's name.” (Story of friend in Arkansas; don't stop saying the deceased's name).

Question #7: Am I ready to die?

Question #8: Why is it so important to prepare for death?

Funny tombstone: “To follow you, I'm not content, until I know which way you went.”

People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...Hebrews 9:27