



Revealing Words Bible Study

“Two Funerals”

www.revealingwords.com

Two Funerals

In 1998, as a young lieutenant in the United States Air Force, I was eager to serve in any way I could. One opportunity that stood out was joining the base funeral detail—a solemn honor that allowed us to pay final respects to veterans who had served our country. I was tasked with presenting the folded American flag to the next of kin, saying the words etched into every military farewell: “On behalf of the President of the United States and a grateful Nation, I present this flag to you in honor of the service of your loved one.”

One day, our team was assigned two funerals in nearby towns. The first journey didn’t go as planned. Somewhere deep in rural Georgia, our unmarked white van wandered aimlessly through backroads. We stopped at a quiet home where an elderly woman was hanging laundry. I asked her for directions to the cemetery. She looked me over and asked, “The colored one or the white one?” I paused, stunned. Turning to my team, I asked, “Is he white or black?” They mouthed “I think white,” and the woman gave us precise directions to that cemetery.

We arrived just in time. The ceremony just began, and the atmosphere was heavy. The grief was raw—wails, sobs, and cries of “why” echoed through the air. The testimonies were filled with regret, missed chances, and broken relationships. It was heartbreaking. As we left, I couldn’t help but feel the weight of a life that seemed unfinished.

The second funeral was quite different. We arrived early, and the mood was unexpectedly joyful. People hugged, laughed, and shared stories of the deceased. Bible verses flowed freely—not just from the pastor, but from everyone. It felt more like a celebration than a farewell. I found myself wishing I had known this person. Their life had clearly left a legacy of love, faith, and impact.

Driving back to the Air Force base, I couldn’t shake the contrast. Two funerals. Two lives. Two legacies. And two questions burned in my heart: How will I be remembered? Will my funeral have as much joy and celebration as the second funeral?

Scripture reminds us in Hebrews 9:27–28 that “people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.” But it also promises that Christ was sacrificed to take away our sins and

brings salvation to those who accept Him as Lord and Savior. Eternity is not earned—it's received by grace through faith in Jesus.

Once we've settled that eternal question, we're called to live a life worth remembering in eternity. Ecclesiastes 7:1 says, "A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth." May our lives be marked by faith, love, and purpose—so that when our final day comes, it's not a moment of regret, but a celebration of a life well lived.

Eternity and Faith

1. Hebrews 9:27–28 speaks of judgment and salvation. How does this truth shape your view of life and death?

2. Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If so, how does that assurance affect your daily choices? If not, accept Him today. You don't have to start with a fancy prayer. God knows your heart and all you have to do is come humbly to Him and ask for forgiveness and His salvation?

Legacy and Remembrance

3. What kind of legacy are you building today? What do you hope people will say about you at your funeral?

4. Are there relationships or regrets you need to address now so your life reflects peace and reconciliation?

Living with Purpose

5. Ecclesiastes 7:1 says “a good name is better than fine perfume.” What does a “good name” mean to you spiritually and relationally?

6. What steps can you take today to ensure your life is a celebration of faith, generosity, and love?

Facing the Inevitable

7. How do you respond emotionally and spiritually to the reality that “one out of one people will die”?

8. What does it mean to live in a way that honors God—not just in death, but in every moment leading up to it?