

Funeral Sermon - Where Good Traits Come From

by [Tim Isbell](#) (this one is definitely original). For more resources and sermons for memorial and funeral services go to [Funeral Resources](#).

Intro

There's some comfort in a memorial service. Family members gather to reconnect, share memories of the one who passed and encourage each other. Friends surround them and express sympathy. This occurs in a memorial service, and in fellowship time like we'll move to in a few minutes.

But along with comfort, there is discomfort. <person> died at age <#>. For young people, this may be their first or second experience with death. For midlife adults, today is a reminder that, sooner or later, we all pass away. For older folks, memorial services bring sadness from saying goodbye to another peer.

Another source of discomfort is having to listen to someone else's view of the meaning of life, death, what comes after death - and especially their view of God.

<Person> enjoyed many friends from a wide variety of faiths. She was always diplomatic; it was her nature to bring people together, and she wanted them to be comfortable in her presence. She treasured harmony in all circumstances, and especially within the family. Especially Psalm 133 captures this:

*How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.*

I'm not sure that either <Person> or I fully appreciate the beauty in putting oil on our heads, but I know <Person> treasures the fellowship of our family.

<Person> was a Christian

She loved the variety and beauty in God's creation - including the variety and beauty of everyone in this room. She prayed for many of you. She believed God created you in his image and planted seeds of his personality deep into yours.

So I spent a little time thinking about what particular seeds of God's image I saw in (Person>'s life.

One seed of God's image in <Person> was... she was a Doer

<Tell how the person was a doer>

The Bible is clear that God is a doer, too. John 5.17 (after putting it in context): Jesus replied, *My Father is always working, and so am I.* God planted the Doer seed - and it flourished.

Another seed of God's image in <Person> was her inquisitive mind.

<Tell how the person exhibited an inquisitive mind, showing interest in how the creation and its inhabitants function and repair broken things and create brand new things.>

One more seed God's planted in <Person> was her/his gift of hospitality.

<Tell something about her hospitality, and tie it to God's hospitality>

Like many doers with the hospitality gift, <Person> had trouble receiving. For example, she and I had a running tussle over who would pick up the bill at a restaurant... <use this to tell the story of how the person finally grasped the hospitality that God was offering her, and that all she needed to do was receive his hospitality to space at his table just like she so often hoped people would just receive her gift of hospitality of space at her table.>.

But today she has moved... She has accepted God's most gracious hospitality and now lives at the address described by Jesus in John 14...

John 14.1-3: Jesus said, *"Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

The place God had for her is far grander than anything she's ever experienced. She's happy there.