

## Eldership Funeral

April 3, 1998

### Discussion Guidelines

#### Introduction:

- A. Jesus taught everything in parables. Mark 4:33,34
  - B. Everything Paul knew was Jesus and His crucifixion. 1 Corinthians 2:2
  - C. Jesus prepared His disciples for His death. Matthew 16:21-26
    - 1. He told them.
    - 2. They resisted.
    - 3. He told them they would have to follow His example.
  - D. It is good to go to house of mourning. Ecclesiastes 7:2,3,10
  - E. A question many have asked. Job 14:1-14
  - F. Jesus' assurance. John 14:1-3
  - G. Jesus is the resurrection. John 11:17-27
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- 1. What good things do you have to say?
  - 2. What will you miss?
  - 3. What are you losing?
  - 4. How will you deal with your loss?
  - 5. How did you learn to work as a team?
  - 6. What fears did you have
    - a. Of the congregation?
    - b. Of God?
    - c. Of each other?
  - 7. How long did it take you to "grow up," feel like "real" elders?
  - 8. What do you need to do to say good-bye to this relationship?
  - 9. What unfinished business do you have?
  - 10. What good things do you have to say about the departed?
  - 11. How will you help the new elders get integrated?
  - 12. How long will you give them to get on the team?
  - 13. How will you deal with your jealousy or others' jealousy if you become aware of it?
  - 14. How do you feel about starting over?
    - a. Working out rules?
    - b. Building a good relationship?
    - c. Feeling like a "real" elder?
  - 15. Will you be intimidated by the new elders?
  - 16. Will you give them permission to be intimidated by you and the situation?
    - a. Success, peace, progress?
    - b. If it declines, they will be suspect.
    - c. Will you feel ineffective?
  - 17. What hopes and dreams do you have?

18. How will you communicate those
  - a. To each other?
  - b. To the new elders?
  - c. To the congregation?
19. Five tasks of dying:
  - a. "Forgive me."
  - b. "I forgive you."
  - c. "I love you."
  - d. "Thank you."
  - e. "Good-bye."

See related article: "The How and Why of an Eldership Funeral" in [March 2008](#) *When Your Preacher Leaves* Newsletter.