

FUNERAL SUMMARY OF THE LATE MR. JAMES DECKER

Family and friends gathered in memory of the late Mr. James Decker, who passed away from this life and entered into eternity on April 3, 2021, at the age of 94 years.

Reverend Hofman officiated the funeral service and opened with the reading of Luke 7:11-16. Prayer was then offered, after which Rev. Hofman addressed the mourning family, reminding them and all of us that though the day of our death may seem far off, our life will pass swiftly.

The city of Nain was a quiet, beautiful town, but was disturbed by a mourning funeral procession. No matter where we live, there is a road to a cemetery. Here they are carrying a dead man, the son of a widow. Whenever there is a casket scene, there is always much sorrow. The widow is surrounded by mourners. Think now of the Decker family. What a concentration of sorrow there is in their family at this moment.

Funerals disturb our schedule; they are calling to us to wake up. We were reminded that death is the wages of sin. Death confronts us with the result of our sin choice. May God open our eyes to understand the reality that we will all one day face this. Are you prepared? Death will have its way. No one can stop it.

Another crowd comes to meet the mourners and the one crowd now meets the other. Jesus stops the funeral procession. The pallbearers stand still. The centerpiece is Jesus Christ and wherever Jesus comes, sorrow must flee. Christ does not submit to death here. "Weep not," He says. Our Lord has power over all. The Lord Jesus Christ was and is Himself touched by sorrow. God knows all our thoughts and His Word says to us that He knows our frame and remembers that we are dust, so He sent His Son in the flesh. He, Jesus, was made to be sin, Who knew and had no sin. He understands our emotional grief, but is able to take away the sting of death. He commands, "Weep not", because He offers grace. Unrepentant sinners were reminded that they should weep because they are still on their own. We were encouraged to pause here and pay attention. Listen to God calling to us again. Hear Him calling us to Godliness. We need personal God glorifying grace

At the cemetery, Rev. Hofman read John 11:21-26 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Exalt the LORD our God, and
worship at his holy hill; for the
LORD our God is holy.
Psalm 99:9*

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.