

## IN MEMORY

by RIKKI SCHWARTZ

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** A man listens to the eulogies at his own funeral.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 5

**TOPIC:** Priorities

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 12:15-21, Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Service focused on lives of purpose/leaving a meaningful legacy

**CHARACTERS:**

PASTOR—Pastor presiding over Tom's Funeral (recommend "real" Pastor giving the message that day)

TOM—deceased man (in his 50's)

SCOTT—Tom's oldest friend (in his 50's)

PAMELA—Tom's wife (in her 40's)

SAM—Tom's son (in his 20's)

**PROPS:** Podium, note cards, urn

**COSTUMES:** Funeral attire. Tom can be dressed in a hospital gown.

**SOUND:** Five wireless microphones (or one wireless microphone and one podium microphone)

**LIGHTING:** General, but low stage lights

**SETTING:** Tom's funeral. Organ music is playing in the background. Tom's urn is on display next to or near the podium.

**Drama Ministry**

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**PASTOR:** Friends, we are here today to honor, to value, and to remember Thomas Patrick Ewing. We are here because we want to express appreciation, we want to acknowledge the importance of his life, and we want to acknowledge the ways in which everyone here has been touched by this man. We are here to say “Thank you, God” for the life of this man. We are also here today to share our grief together. We are all on a journey of grief: Pamela, his wife; Sam, his son, and Scott, Tom’s oldest friend, will share their remembrances with us in a minute, but first, let’s remember that the Bible says, “Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted,” and we are mourning today. *(Mic cuts out and PASTOR continues speaking, but cannot be heard as he ad libs anything that fits the moment to fill time while TOM speaks. The PASTOR and all the speakers who come up later are all oblivious to TOM—they cannot hear or see him.)*

**TOM:** *(As he runs down the center aisle of the congregation; he is out of breath)* Wait! Wait! Wait! I’m coming; I’m coming. I don’t want to miss any of this. *(Jumps onto the stage and addresses the congregation)* I guess my mother was right...I really was someone who would be late to my own funeral!! *(Looks at audience)* Huh; smaller turnout than I expected. *(Shrugs shoulders then the urn catches his eye)* Wow! That is a beautiful urn – very fancy!! I wonder if it’s real gold, or just gold plated – hmmm. Anyway— *(Distracted again by the urn)* maybe platinum? Oh well, no matter. It’s not really important what type of vessel they put me....my remains in. *(As an aside)* Although skimping on the urn would seem mildly inappropriate. *(Remembering a new and important thought)* Hey! I betcha didn’t know that we...well our souls....get to come back to our own funeral. And I’ve gotta admit that is just plain cool! I can’t wait to hear it all. I can’t wait to hear every word about what a kind and loving husband and father I was... how much I meant to my friends... all of it. Because I had it all...I had a full, albeit short life, and I had everything! And now I want to hear everything...e-ver-y-thing they have to say about me! *(Almost giggling in anticipation)*

**PASTOR:** I would now like to ask Tom’s friends and family to come up and say a few words in memory of Tom.

**TOM:** Okay, here we go.

**PASTOR:** First, we have Scott Tremblay. Scott? *(Exits podium)*

**TOM:** Oh, Scott is first. Okay, bring it! Let’s hear everything buddy.

**SCOTT:** *(Replaces the PASTOR at the podium and begins to read from his note-cards)* I’ve been friends with Tom for 30 years.

**TOM:** You are my oldest friend in the world, buddy.

**SCOTT:** And he was probably the smartest and most successful friend I ever had.