

When we think of our own death, we often dwell on what will happen to us after we have died. Really though, we should think about what will happen to those we leave behind. When we die we are taken care of, we don't have anything to worry about. We are in the hands of our mighty savior; we are home; we are comfortable, happy, and actually full of life. When we are in heaven, we don't necessarily mourn for those left behind or really miss them because in heaven, we can keep our loved ones in our hearts without fear because we know what is in store for them someday. We will see them again.

However, the loved ones left behind are the ones who will be mourning our loss because they have not learned to completely accept everyone into their hearts. We tend to guard our hearts and not let everyone in. It's really a disservice to yourself and to the ones you love. You have to trust and let people into your hearts. That way, when your loved one passes, like Wilma, you will be better able to accept the loss and remember her more dearly from your heart.

You can help prepare others for your death. Never leave any unfinished relational business. If there is an issue between you and a loved one, fix it now. Have you forgiven those who have hurt you and asked forgiveness from those you have hurt? When you are at peace with all the people in your lives, your death may cause great grief, but it will not cause guilt or anger. When we are ready to die at any moment, we also are ready to live at any moment. It will be easier for our family and friends to remember us with joy and peace if we have said a grateful good-bye than if we die with bitter and disillusioned hearts.

Wilma thought about her family and tried to prepare them for a life without her. Wilma thought it was important to send her daughters and son to Catholic grade school so that they would have the basic understanding of the life and lessons given to us by Jesus. Even though they lived in the country and it was hard to get to town, she made sure the kids were baptized in the Catholic Church. Wilma gave her family a fighting chance in a world that does not want you to succeed. Wilma understood that Jesus wants you to succeed because He gives us a life where everyone succeeds but the world offers false hope and disillusionment as if you will find happiness if you just get a bigger house, a better car, a few more dollars. Wilma was not about that, she understood that happiness comes from lasting relationships build on love and trust.

You know, the crowd here today is what Wilma would have wanted to see all along. This is a great tribute to Wilma, bring together family, build love and trust. We believe that when we go to heaven, we are able to continue our prayers started here on earth. I am sure Wilma prayed that you would all continue your life connected to the Church. We can ask Wilma to pray for us still, because now she is closer to God than we are – we ask Wilma to pray for us and our continued happiness here on earth until we meet face to face.