**Christianity – Simple or Complicated? #2**

Memories You Don’t Have To *Try* To Remember

*My response or reaction to the title is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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***Two Types of Memory***

*Short term memory – we use it when\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Long term memory - we use it when\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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***Two Positive Expressions of Long Term Memory***

*Good habits - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Successful life management.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

***Two Negative Expressions of Long Term Memory***

*Bad habits - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*What in the world does this have to do with whether or not Christianity is simple or complicated?* ***Good question!***

***Helpful Bible Passages***

**Matthew 18 - “How many times…?”**

21Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven.

23“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mathew+18&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23752h)] was brought to him. 25Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mathew+18&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-23756i" \o "See footnote i)] He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

30“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*Peter’s objective was to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Jesus’ objective was to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**Mark 10 – “What must I do…?”**

17As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. 19You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

20“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

21Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

*The Running Man’s objective was to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Jesus’ objective was to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Mark 12 – “Did y’all see that?”**

41Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

*The widow’s objective was to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Jesus’ objective was to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Lamentations – “Then I remember this…”**

*The setup\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

 19I remember my affliction and my wandering,
    the bitterness and the gall.
20I well remember them,
    and my soul is downcast within me.

**21Yet this I call to mind *(Then I remember this)*
    and therefore I have hope:**

22Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,
    for his compassions never fail.
23They are new every morning;
    great is your faithfulness.
24I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion;
    therefore I will wait for him.”

25The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
    to the one who seeks him;
26it is good to wait quietly
    for the salvation of the Lord.

*Lamentations 1 through 3:20 are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Verses 21-26 are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**John 15 – Fans or Friends?**

9“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command.

*Fans buy their tickets,*

*enjoy the show,*

*applaud and go home.*

*They are…*

*short term.*

*For fans, Christianity can be very complicated.*

*On the other hand,*

*friends stay close.*

*Ever so close.*

*They follow,*

*even to the cross.*

*Even beyond the cross.*

*They are in it for the long haul.*

*Faithful…*

*Forever, faithful…*

*Friends are long term…*

*For friends, Christianity is mostly simple.*

*Does Jesus want fans or friends?*