

## A SINGLE WORD THAT CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY OR SAD

### Luke 16:25

**Introduction:** We had much rather be happy than sad but all of us have tasted both experiences. There is something that can bring us much delightful happiness and yet that same word can bring tears, heartache and sadness. Older people use this word often as their children grow up and move away and when the children grow up and become responsible adults, even parents themselves, they begin to use this word. It is a word that can cheer us on or cause a toss and turning, sleepless night. It can bring bright sunny days or it can bring dark clouds of gloom. This word can judge or it can bring freedom. What is this word that is so strong?  
MEMORY - REMEMBER!

### I. MEMORY CAN BE THE SWEETEST WORD

1. Memory brings all the past pleasures up to the present and those wonderful moments can be relived.
2. Joseph remembered - (*Genesis 42:21*)
  - Joseph was away from his father and brothers and was a slave in Egypt.
  - Joseph remembered his father's teachings and he remembered God's Word.
  - His memory gave him hope and kept his heart warm.
  - His brothers came to Egypt (where Joseph was) to buy grain and Joseph saw and recognized them and joy flooded over him.
  - Have you had a similar experience? Long ago family members or friends who suddenly appeared. They didn't recognize you but you did them?
3. King David had memories - (*2 Samuel 9:1*)
  - Jonathan, king Saul's son, was David's best friend but both the king and Jonathan were killed and David became king and was very victorious in battles and in being king.
  - David remembered the friendship he had had with Jonathan and how Jonathan had helped hide David from Saul. David thought of those wonderful times with Jonathan.
  - There are monuments, parks, etc., dedicated to the memory of certain loved people.
4. Paul was always remembering - (*Philippians 1:3; 2 Timothy 1*)
  - In all of Paul's letters to the various Churches, he was always remembering someone in his prayers for the kind things someone had done to/for him.
  - Paul was one who was a prisoner and had been mistreated several times, yet he always found some memory of a Church, a member or God delivering him from some situation that uplifted him.
5. Then remember what Jesus told His disciples to do at the last supper with them?
  - Jesus asked His disciples to celebrate His death and so to REMEMBER Him... "*...this do in remembrance of me....*"

## II. MEMORY CAN BE THE SADEST WORD

1. Most of us here today would give all we have if some things in our lives could be forgotten.  
- Memory becomes sad and even bitter not so much because of sufferings, sorrow, but often it is the dumb, stupid, evil things we have done.
2. Joseph's brothers had remorse over what they did to him - sold him into slavery.
3. Adonibezek, king of Canaan cut off the big toes and thumbs of 70 kings. Israel captured him and did the same thing to him. ("*...as I have done so God hath required of me...*") (*Judges 16*)
4. Jacob deceived his brother Esau and even their father over the birthright and his nights were filled with terror and unrest until he got forgiveness.
5. Peter denied three times one night that he ever knew Jesus and he wept bitterly over what he did.
6. Jesus tells the story of a rich man and a beggar and both died. The beggar went to be with the Lord but the rich man went to hell and here he remembered and cried out to the Lord to send somebody to his family to keep them away from where he was.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Heaven will be a place of pleasant, happy memories for those there.
2. Hell will be a place of sad, bitter, unhappy memories for those there.
3. Live each day in such a way that the memory of it will be a happy one.
4. Remember the Lord God, your creator, His forgiveness and His salvation and you will have happy memories.