

God Says What He Means, and Means What He Says!

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➤ Intro:

- **illus.: Bob Huggins, men's basketball coach, West Virginia Mountaineers** in Morgantown
- **Shawn Falkenstein, reporter**, Morgantown, West Virginia
 - article, March 28, 2010 (last Sunday), the day West Virginia beat the University of Kentucky in the Elite 8, and advancing to the Final 4
- **beginning of article:**
 - **"If there is a better motivator** in college basketball I've never heard of him.
 - **"Bob Huggins is the best at getting the most** out of his players and this run to the Final Four is a perfect example. Have you ever seen a more determined group of young men?
 - **"They know the goal and are singularly focused on achieving it. . . .**
- **reason for Huggins' success, according to the reporter**
 - **"The reason the players respect and love Huggins** so much is because he is **honest**—for good and bad.
 - **"He says what he means and he means what he says.** He will **never sugarcoat** things when talking to his players or the media and he will never lie to them.

- **as people, we understand that we have to be "straight" with people to succeed**
 - **some people aren't going to like it** – the one's who aren't interested in doing the right thing
 - **some people are going to love it** – because they want to be successful
 - **"shoot straight" with people, and you'll be the most successful you can be**
 - religion, evangelism, sports, profession
 - **i.e., "Say what you mean, and mean what you say!"**

- - **God, as Creator of the human mind and psyche, deals with us this way**
 - **men like Bob Huggins have been smart enough to figure it out, and have great success**
 - but it originated from God
 - **God says what He means, and means what He says!**
 - **we must understand this about God to have a successful relationship with Him**
 - **we must understand this about dealing with people, to have success with them**

- **God says exactly what He means** – He says what He means, and means what He says
 - **God says exactly what He means**
 - **Heb. 4:12** word sharper than any two-edged sword
 - **illus.: story, Sadducees, not believe in resurrection (Matt. 22:23-33)**
 - woman had a husband who died, she didn't have children so man's brother married her
 - her 2nd husband died, she still didn't have children so man's brother married her
 - continued till she had 7 husbands, who all preceded her in death
 - **Sadducees' question** – whose wife will she be in the resurrection
 - **hypothetical** scenario they thought proved their doctrine, no resurrection
 - **Jesus, Sadducees wrong**, neither knew Scriptures nor power of God
 - “But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ‘I Am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.” (illus.: Jesus, Rich man and Lazarus)
 - **God's word is so sharp, and the tense of each word is so precise, Jesus disproved a false doctrine and taught truth based on the tense of a pronoun**
 - **warning: when people start using hypotheticals** to prove a point rather than God's word, beware, it's probably false doctrine, else they would use Scripture – different from illus. from Scripture
 - **illus.: hypothetical scenario of being in an airplane** about ready to crash, someone could pray and be saved, so baptism is not essential for salvation – Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
 - **illus.: thief on the cross** was saved without being baptized, so we don't have to be baptized to be saved – list reasons why incorrect, false assumptions, different dispensations and laws
 - **God says what He means, and means what He says**
- - **ever bit of God's word will be accomplished**
 - **1 Pet. 1:22-23, 25** word of the Lord stands forever, **must obey** truth to be saved
 - **Is. 55:11** God's word does not return to Him void, but accomplishes what He desires
- - **2 Pet. 3:3-4, 9-10** some people mock God, because the last day has not come, they'll be **unprepared to meet God**
 - **God's word accomplishes everything He ordains** – He says what He means, and means what He says
- - **people who don't respect God (obey) are punished**
 - **Lev. 10:1-3** Nadab and Abihu offered fire God hadn't commanded
 - **didn't respect God, were punished** for their sin, fire came out of heaven and killed them
 - **1 Ch. 13:9-10; 15:13** Uzzah touched the ark of the covenant, which Israel was transporting on a cart pulled by oxen
 - **didn't respect God, punished with death**, even though David and the people thought they were doing the right thing – **ignorance not excuse**
 - **2 Th. 1:6-8, 10b** everyone punished who doesn't know God, believe, obey the gospel
 - **God says what He means, and means what He says**
- - **but if we respect God (obey), we'll be rewarded for eternity** – **blessed in this life, and eternity**
 - **Rev. 7:13-17** the redeemed in heaven for eternity – **eternal reward**
- **God says what He means, and means what He says**
 - “you can take that to the bank” – count on it, don't doubt it, stake your life on it
 - if you believe it, you'll obey God

➤ **God is not mocked** – He does what He says – we reap what you sow

- **mock:** scornfully tease someone, to ridicule them, or to mimic contemptuously

- **illus.: mocking someone / God**

- **1 Ki. 18:27** **Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal**

- **Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal**

- take ox and prepare it for sacrifice but not put fire under it, then call on the name of Baal – nothing happened

- **Elijah mocked them**

- “Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.”

- they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them – Baal (fictitious god) never responded

- **Elijah prepared his sacrifice**

- had water poured on the wood three times, soaking the wood and filling the trench around it

- prayed to God

- fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood and stones and dust, licked up the water that was in the trench

- Elijah killed the prophets of Baal

- **Elijah fittingly mocked the prophets, because their idolatrous worship was a mockery to God**

- they were punished with death

- **Matt. 27:29** **soldiers mocked Jesus before crucifying Him**

- put a crown of thorns on His head and a reed in His hand and pretended to worship Him

- they mocked Jesus, but their mockery was punished

- **Matt. 24** Jesus destroyed Jerusalem, the city where He was mocked and crucified

- **Rev. 19** Jesus destroyed the Roman empire, whose soldiers mocked Him and crucified Him

- **people (nations) who mock the Lord are brought down and punished**

➤ - **Gal. 6:7-8** **don't be deceived, God is not mocked, we reap as we sow**

- **people who disobey God are mocking Him, but He'll put an end to it by punishing them**

- **Rom. 12:19b** “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

- **Heb. 12:29** “for our God is a consuming fire”

- **Rev. 2:10b** “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

➤ - **Sodom and Gomorrah: examples of God's punishment of people who mock Him – reap what you sow**

- **Jude 1:5-7; 2 Pet. 2:4-6** **example of Sodom and Gomorrah**

- **God is not mocked**

- **evil doers punished harshly**

- **the righteous will be saved** – hope, confidence of the saved

- **God is not mocked** – He does what He says – we reap what you sow

- sinners punished for eternity

- righteous rewarded for eternity

➤ **God holds us to the same standard, to say what we mean and mean what we say**

- **Eph. 4:14-15** speak the truth in love

- **vs. 14** not craftiness and deceitful scheming – results in sin

- **vs. 15** rather speak the truth in love – results in spiritual growth

- **Christians are to be**

- **up-front and honest with people** – shoot straight with people

- **say what we mean, and mean what we say**

- **results is success**

- **with God** – eternal life in heaven

- **with people on earth** – successful in our relationships because we're "straight" with people

- illus.: evangelism

- illus.: parents

- illus.: employers

- illus.: friends

➤ - **1 Pet. 3:15** always ready, make defense (speak truth in love), **hope in you, gentleness and reverence**

- **preparation: must get ready** – words, attitude

- **if we're not ready**, won't say what we mean and mean what we say

➤ - **Pr. 26:18-19** shouldn't do and say sinful things, and then pretend we were "just kidding"

- **with God there is no "just kidding" when it comes to sin**

- **be honest when make an honest mistake, or sin**

- **"just kidding" doesn't make a wrong, right**

➤ - **Matt. 12:34-37** words reflect what's in our heart (Pr. 26:18-19)

- **vs. 36** judged for every careless word (idle word) – illus.: words spoken in anger or pain

- **vs. 37** by words justified, by words condemned

- **say what you mean, and mean what you say** – you'll be judged for it later

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **God holds us to the same standard by which He lives**

- say what you mean, and mean what you say

- **we can trust God to do exactly what He says**

- **punishment** for sin

- **reward** for obedience

- **inv.** are you living by this standard – if you stood before the Lord in judgment today, would you be punished or reward for eternity