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 means exactly what He says, punished if not respect God, rewarded for eternity if we obey

- **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 means exactly what He says, punished if not respect God, rewarded for eternity if we obey, God not mocked

▸ 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