What If Jesus Really Meant What He Said?
(Matthew 16:21-23)

Introduction: 1. Many people think that God will give them a pass in the day of judgment.
2. But what I would like for us to consider in this lesson is the following question: “What if Jesus really meant what he said?”

I. Why Some Don’t Take Jesus At His Word
A. They think that God’s grace will trump the need for obedience.
B. However, let’s consider what Jesus said about this very scenario.
C. (Matthew 16:21-23)
   1. “Far be it from you, Lord” – a Hebraism.
   2. Literally – “God be merciful.”
   3. Notice Jesus’ response – “Get behind me, Satan.”

II. What If Jesus Really Meant What He Said In...
A. (Mark 16:15-16).
   1. If something other than salvation were under consideration, would it be misunderstood?
B. (Matthew 7:21-23).
   1. Is sincerity enough?
   2. Does obedience really matter?
C. (Matthew 18:21-35).
   1. Forgiveness is not optional.
   2. (Luke 17:3-4).
   3. (Ephesians 4:32).
   4. (Matthew 5:22).
D. (John 8:24; 14:6).
   1. Jesus is the only way to the father.
   2. (Acts 4:12).
   3. The moral character of God demands such.
   1. Jesus must come first.
   2. (Colossians 1:18).
   3. (Matthew 6:33).
   4. (Matthew 6:24)

Conclusion: 1. The fact is, Jesus did mean what he said.
2. And some day, we will be judged by his words (John 12:48).