

WHOEVER
DIVORCES HIS
WIFE AND MARRIES
ANOTHER COMMITS
ADULTERY

FEAR HIM... WHO HAS POWER TO
CAST INTO HELL

MY KINGDOM IS
NOT OF THIS WORLD

What If Jesus Really Meant Every Word He Said?

DO NOT
RESIST AN EVIL
PERSON

UNLESS YOU REPENT
YOU WILL ALL LIKewise
PERISH

WHY DO YOU CALL ME
LORD AND
DO NOT DO
THE THINGS I SAY?

How HARD
IT IS FOR A
RICH MAN

THE WORDS THAT
I HAVE SPOKEN
WILL JUDGE HIM
ON THE LAST DAY

TO ENTER INTO THE
KINGDOM OF GOD

Have you ever read the words of Jesus Christ and been shocked at how radical and intense some of them are? What would your life look like if you actually obeyed everything that Jesus taught? Have you thought it through to the utter end in your imagination what your life would look like if you lived out Jesus' teachings literally...if you just followed His example and instructions without explaining anything away or ignoring any of His advice?

As you are aware, there are so many different ideas and interpretations about what Jesus meant by what He said, but what if Jesus just simply meant what He said at face value? What if His message was so simple and so straightforward that a child could understand it? Do we really need special training by college professors to understand our Master? What if the goal of Christianity and the

standard of the final judgment is not so much *knowing* the truth as *doing* it?

It is a scary thought to consider how radically your life might have to change if you actually started to put into practice everything that Jesus said. It would mean immediately adjusting some major aspects of your daily life and rearranging many of your personal goals. It would mean being totally misunderstood by friends and family members, most of who profess to follow the same Jesus, and forging out on a narrow path that few people are traveling. It would mean reproach, poverty, persecution, suffering, and loneliness. It would interrupt and change the very fabric of our society and personal lives. But did Jesus come to do anything less?

You see, we have been taught or formed the idea that Jesus meant only

some of the statements He made. If we are honest, we would have to admit that we believe Jesus only meant *certain* things that He said. For example, most professing Christians would readily admit that what Jesus says in John 3:16 means exactly what it says and we can take it face value. Our hearts rejoice, we memorize it and make it foundational in what we believe and practice. We believe Jesus is the Son of God, that He is the bread of life, that no one can come to the Father except through him, that He is preparing a place in heaven for us, and that He is coming back again because, well....He said so.

But then He turns around and says that if you are a rich man trying to get into God's kingdom, you would be better off if you were a camel trying to get through the eye of a needle; you would be better off gouging out your eye than to continue

lusting; marrying divorced people is adultery; He forbids us to resist evil people; we must take up a cross, deny ourselves, and actually follow Him.

Suddenly, we are not so sure that He really meant those words.

What if Jesus was just as serious and straightforward about those words as He was about everything else that He said? What if you were not really on your way to heaven if you were not carrying a cross? What if storing up provision for the future meant that you were actually a fool? What if you would actually eternally perish if you did not forsake your sin? What if you are not really a follower of His because you have not yet forsaken all that you have? What if you are not a servant of Christ at all, but a slave to sin because you continue to sin? What if not forgiving others truly means you will not

be forgiven?

Do you believe Jesus meant these things as much as everything else He said? Well, in reality, He did. If we are honest, it becomes clear that the reason we don't believe that He meant the hard things that He said is because, well...that's just it, they are hard. We quickly embrace Jesus' easier sayings because...they are easier. And so we have opted for discipleship without a cross, a Savior without a Lord, Christianity without Christ-likeness, the Kingdom of God without forsaking the world. Somehow, the devil has tricked us into viewing Jesus' teachings like a buffet line in which we can pick and choose whatever we want and fill our plates with only what we like. We then are continually feasting on the words of Jesus that don't interrupt our lives too much but allow us to comfortably make it to

heaven. But is this what Jesus did? Is this what He taught?

No, this is what many modern systems of theology teach and what men have come up with to excuse themselves from suffering. The age old enemy of the faith knows how dangerous it is to his kingdom to have people living like Jesus. He has done everything he possibly can to convince Christians that they can follow Jesus without walking like He did. Have you bought into the lie?

Have you longed to see a dynamic, vibrant church powerfully bearing witness of the kingdom of heaven to a lost world? Maybe you have wished that you could spend just one day with the early disciples in the book of Acts, just to experience what the church used to be like. What was it that made those saints so impacting on the souls around them?

Well, empowered by the Holy Spirit, they simply counted the cost and obeyed the words of their Master! And this is what is available to us today. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and if we would simply believe everything that He said and that He expects and will enable us to obey Him, we too would enter into genuine discipleship. I invite you to join me and others who are daring to believe that...

*Jesus Really Did Mean
Every Word That He Said!*

THE GATE IS **NARROW**
AND THE WAY IS
HARD THAT LEADS
TO LIFE AND **FEW**
FIND IT

LOVE
YOUR ENEMIES

TEACH THEM TO **OBEY**
EVERYTHING I HAVE
COMMANDED YOU

DO NOT STORE UP
TREASURE FOR YOURSELF
ON EARTH

SIN
NO MORE

NOT EVERYONE THAT SAYS TO
ME **LORD, LORD** WILL ENTER
THE **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

ANYONE WHO
LOOKS AT A WOMAN
LUSTFULLY HAS
ALREADY
COMMITTED **ADULTERY**

WORK HARD TO ENTER
THROUGH THE NARROW DOOR,
BECAUSE MANY, I TELL YOU, WILL
TRY TO ENTER AND WILL
NOT BE ABLE TO

IF YOU OBEY MY
COMMANDS YOU
WILL **REMAIN**
IN MY LOVE

ANYONE WHO **OBEYS** MY TEACHINGS
WILL NEVER SEE DEATH