

**THE BIG IDEA: When you see Jesus, you'll begin to see battles differently.**The Take-Off

Last week we kicked this series off by telling you that we wanted you to know one thing: You're in a fight, the struggle is real, but the victory is real, too.

My guess is that this week, you've been more aware of the battle than ever.

We said that battles are real, and this week many of you could say Amen to that (or oh no!).

That's the bad news. Unfortunately, it gets worse.

You also probably came back this morning hoping for the "3 ways to defeat the enemy" speech because you're having one of those "GET ME OUT OF THIS NOW!!" moments.

But that's not going to happen. Sure, we'll be exposing the enemy and his tactics next week, but ultimately, victory doesn't come from studying the enemy - victory comes from seeing the truth.

Interesting story in 2 Kings 6 / Elisha's servant sees the enemy and freaks / Elisha doesn't pray for him to see the enemy more clearly to understand them / he prayed for his EYES TO BE OPENED TO SEE HIS ANGEL ALLIES!

Ephesians 6:14 says we stand with the belt of truth buckled

- truth allows us to stand firm
- truth (like the belt) holds everything in place
- truth is the touchstone, the standard
- Jesus is the truth
- the Word of God is the truth

So.....

I want to help you see the truth this morning.

I want to show you who he is and what He's done, hold up the standard, the touchstone, that you can come back to when the battle gets crazy

I want to do for you what Chip Kelly did for the Oregon Ducks

[Football play cards]

"The system is simple - something tired, distracted 19-year olds can easily grasp," then Oregon offensive lineman Mark Asper told ESPN in 2010.

So, you're in the battle and it's crazy. I want to hold Jesus up so that you can see Him in the battle, **because when you see Jesus in the battle, you'll see battles differently.**

**1. Where do we see Jesus?**

- a. IN the storm
- b. Daniel 3:25 / the Hebrew men didn't see Jesus outside the fire; He was IN it
- c. Matthew 14:23-33 / Peter didn't see Jesus on the shore; he saw Him IN the storm
- d. If you're in a battle (IF - now that's funny!), then you're perfectly positioned to see Jesus!

**2. What do we see when we see Jesus?**

- a. This is the part that gets me fired up, because when we really see Jesus for who He is, we're going to be full of faith to keep fighting!
- b. So, here's what you'll see when you see Jesus...
- c. A creator
  - Jesus is Lord over creation (we've got some work to do to really understand the power of that)
  - John 1:3 / everything was made by Him
  - Col. 1:16-17 / everything was made by Him and is sustained by Him
  - He holds all things together - He walked on the waves that the disciples were afraid of
  - Every step He took pulled water molecules together under His feet
  - He walks on the things that overwhelm us
  - The battle you're in could be the very thing that brings Jesus to you!
- d. A redeemer
  - He's so much more than that - He's a redeemer, rescuer, restorer
  - 4 Greek words that shed light on what Jesus does when He redeems us

- agordizo - He bought us from the slave market / 1 Cor. 6:20 - bought with a price
  - exagordizo - He bought us from the slave market to REMOVE/RESCUE us / Gal. 3:13 - removed us from the curse of the law
  - lutroo - He paid the full ransom for us / Titus 2:14 - paid with His life
  - apolutrosis - He paid the price to RESTORE us to what we once were / Romans 3:24 - we sinned, but the restoration of redemption has justified us (just as if I'd never sinned)
- e. A King
- Revelation 19:16 / King of Kings and Lord of Lords / a WARRIOR King!
  - Philippians 2:9-11 / Every knee must bow / Human, demonic, angelic - EVERY knee

### 3. How do we see Jesus?

- a. Knowing that when we see Jesus, we see a creator, a redeemer and a king makes wanting to see Him in the fight a no brainer
- b. So why don't more of us see Him? Maybe the more important question is, HOW do we see Jesus?
- c. First, WE LOOK UP TO HIM
- Psalm 121:1-2
  - This is worship
- d. Second, WE LIFT HIM UP
- John 12:32
  - This is community
  - As WE lift up the finished work of Jesus on the cross, others can see Him
  - Flag wavers in the fight
- e. Third, WE LOVE HIM in others
- Matthew 25:40
  - This is service

#### The Landing

Worship / Community / Service

The 3 things that we call you to every week at The Gathering are the very same 3 things that can help you see Jesus in the battle, and when you see Jesus in the battle, you'll see battles differently.

As opportunities for God to break through instead of obstacles for you to break through.

As situations that must bow before Him instead of attacks that try to make you bow low before them.

As we close this morning, my prayer for you is the same one that Elisha prayed over his servant: "Oh, Lord, please open their eyes that they may see."

Let's pray.