

Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament, Week 5

JM = Joel Muddamalle

KLG = Kendra LeGrand

Kendra LeGrand: Hey, First 5 friends. My name is Kendra LeGrand and it's an honor to welcome you to our weekend teaching. We just finished our final week of study for *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament* in the First 5 app. To finish us strong and to finish our study strong, we have Joel Muddamalle, who was the co-author of *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament*. Joel, how are you doing today?

Joel Muddamalle: I'm doing well. Thank you, Kendra.

KLG: Great. Well, we're excited to learn from you. But before we do, I'm going to recap our Major Moments.

- Genesis 46:31 – 47:31 | Joseph looked out for his own family, but Jesus made a way for all to be invited and included into the family of God.
- Exodus 14 | Just as God parted the Red Sea; Jesus calms the storm. Sometimes physically, but always spiritually for those who trust in Him.
- Jonah 1 | Unlike Jonah, who begrudgingly went to the Ninevites, after spending three days in the belly of the fish, Jesus willingly laid a tomb to save and reconcile all mankind.
- Exodus 20 | The Torah served as a guardian, but in Jesus, we have our greater guardian and therefore our ultimate protector.
- Isaiah 59 | Unlike David, who was not strong enough to wear the armor of the king, today, believers are protected and equipped with the armor, the divine King of heaven and earth.

All right, Joel, we're excited to learn from you.

JM: That's awesome. Thank you so much, Kendra. I love those Major Moments. You know, I wanted to ... One, I can't believe that we are at the end of our study. Oh, my goodness, [Laughter]. That was quite the journey of seeing Jesus in all these amazing and sometimes unexpected places throughout the Old Testament. I'm really excited for today, because I think what we'll do, essentially, is really build off so much of what we have done the first five weeks, the first four weeks. But before I get started, Kendra, I have a question for you. Have you ever put on clothing or anything like that, that maybe just wasn't the best fit?

KLG: I have. Yes, I have.

JM: Yeah. Walk me through this situation. What do you do? What decisions do you make? Do you just roll with it? Talk me through the complexity of the situation?

KLK: Well, it's very complex, because there's different fabrics that fit different. The seams may not be laying right, and then the dreaded mirror, sometimes I think I look great, and then sometimes it just shows everything in the wrong places. So, it is quite the adventure.

JM: And if it's not the right fit, or whatever the situation is, then what do you do?

KLK: I put it back on the hanger [Laughter] and put it back on the, on the shelf. You know?! Got to put it away.

JM: Absolutely. OK. So, today we're going to be in three different passages of Scripture. It's a true biblical theology so for all my notetaking friends, that would like to know where we are, where we're going, what's going to happen, the first passage is First Samuel 17. We'll look at verses 30-40. The second passage is going to be Ephesians six and we're going to look specifically at passages 10-14 and then we're going to end back in the Old Testament, Isaiah 59. Specifically, verses 17-18.

But I have a little bit of a confession Kendra. I don't like confessing this. I hope my wife doesn't listen to this because it's a debate that we have consistently. I think I have come to terms that I am ... I wouldn't say hoarder. I feel like a hoarder has so much negativity around it, but I am sentimental. There's a sentimentality about who I am. Particularly with things like shoes or clothing. Some clothing in particular. So, there was a phase back in the day ... I blame David Crowder for this. He's an amazing worship leader ... where all the cool kids wore track jackets. I don't know. Did you ever wear track jackets?

KLK: Oh, I'm a big track jacket girl. Yeah.

JM: OK. They're very comfortable and they're perfect for different types of weather. I had a track jacket for every day of the week. It was amazing. Track jackets are not as cool anymore though they may be cool in the coming years. I had one track jacket, that was a green Nintendo track jacket. You know, with the Mario Mushroom on the back? It was amazing. Over the years, my wife has somehow magically — some people would say deliberately — she would just say it's random, but all my track jackets have disappeared. I have no idea why. I have no idea who, aka Britt, has been getting rid of them. But I have saved one track jacket, and it is my Nintendo track jacket.

I gave it to my oldest son, Liam, who's 10 years old. And I was like, “Son, I'm so excited for you to have this incredible track jacket.” Y'all ... The track jacket is so huge on my boy. [Laughter]. He is swallowed up in it. He tried to wear it. Finally, at one point, he did exactly what you said Kendra. He was like, “You know, this is so cool but we might need to just leave it in the closet for the next couple of years so I can grow into it.” And he took it off and to my dismay, put it on the hanger, and he stuck it into that closet. Why did that happen? Well, it was too big, it didn't feel comfortable. His friends would probably make fun of him because he looked like a little walking head in a jacket that went down to his knees.

When clothing doesn't fit the way that it's intended to, the way that you need it to, the natural response is going to be to take it off and to get something else on that you feel comfortable with. Because the worst thing — I don't know if y'all have ever experienced this, I know I have especially over the last couple years that we've had — the pants that used to fit perfect, suddenly that button is just a little bit tighter, and you're in that weird spot on the belt between the holes. It's a little bit too tight, and you need to almost poke another hole. But if you poke it and somebody sees it, then they'll know that you're “that” person who's in the “in-between.” It's a whole situation and you don't want to feel uncomfortable, because when you feel uncomfortable, sitting in a chair is hard. Driving in the car is hard. All these things become very difficult.

Now, when we turn to this Old Testament passage in First Samuel 17, I want us to normalize this idea of clothing and to normalize this concept of putting on clothing that fits well, that we will feel comfortable in, that we feel like we can take over the world in versus the type of clothing that we feel like “Gosh, I am insecure about this.” Because what we find throughout the Old Testament, and we've done this in the last four weeks, we find these pictures, these images. Sometimes these people like King David, who are types of Jesus, when we read about them, and when we study about them, we see a glimpse of an anticipation of the better and future king who would be so much greater than King David. And simultaneously we see all the good things that they do. We're also reminded of their humanity. We're reminded of their frailty. We're also reminded of all the ways that they don't match up to the perfection and to the provision that only King Jesus could give us.

There's this famous story in First Samuel 17. It's a passage about King David before he's even a king. He's just a shepherd boy, and he goes out ... and we hear the story all the time as kids — if you grew up in the church — of David slaying Goliath. But there's an important scene that leads up to this incredible battle scene between David and Goliath. And it takes place here in 1 Samuel 17.

Now remember everything that we talked about with clothing and remember that we're now in the ancient world. The Ancient Near Eastern world. The Mesopotamians, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, all these people groups are around and the clothing that they would have worn all had a lot of intentionality around it. It's not like they're like, “Hey, let me pick up a pair of Nikes for this situation. You know, a pair of Nike fourteens that are winterized in case it might rain. [Laughter.] They didn't have that ability to go into a shoe closet and pick something out. They had to have versatility, but they also had to have things that would meet their needs. David would have understood this very intentionally, especially as a shepherd boy. He understood the necessity of a staff, which was basically an extension of his clothing. A necessity of his clothing. What he wore. The same was true for the military world. The same was true for soldiers.

For us today, the difference between a pair of pants that might be a little bit too tight is a feeling of discomfort. We might have a little red spot or something where things are just a little bit too tight. For the ancient world, for these military soldiers, the difference is life and death. If they're uncomfortable in their armor, if it's not fitted the right way the result could be the loss of their

life in battle. This is the situation that King Saul finds himself in with this person named David who's a shepherd boy who comes and says, "Hey, it is not right for these Philistines to be mocking Yahweh, the God of Israel and all the Israelites. Something has to happen." And I think Saul is excited that somebody is willing to stand up.

And I wanted us to see a good part of Saul. And this is what verse 38 says, "*Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, and David strapped his sword over his armor...*" And catch this, "... And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, 'I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.' So David put them off. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine." (1 Samuel 17:38-40, ESV) It's an easy couple of verses to kind of skip by and leave them behind like "Oh, that is just a little detail of the story?"

Well, I think this is a massive part of the story. You see, what happens is that Saul tries to fit David with armor to protect him, and yet the armor that he puts on ... David is a shepherd. He's not even fully developed as a man for the most part, that we know. And Saul's a big dude. If you remember, Saul is a head over everybody else (1 Samuel 9:2, ESV). Imagine trying to put on that type of armor and walk around and never having trained in it. When it says that "...it hasn't been tested..." another way to understand that is he hasn't been trained. He hasn't built the muscles. He doesn't know how to swing a sword in this coat of mail and armor. This is so uncomfortable. Ultimately, David did not have the strength, the power or the expertise to wear that armor. So, to take those things off and put on what felt comfortable for him.

Here's something that's super interesting, because remember, David is a type of person that reminds us of who Jesus is, right? Notice what happens in Ephesians Chapter six, particularly in verse 10. In First Samuel 17, we're talking about armor and the armor that David was supposed to wear, but he couldn't, because he didn't have the strength. He didn't have the power. He didn't have the might, the testing.

Notice what happens here with Paul in Ephesians Chapter six verse 10. There's what Paul says, "*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*" And then verse 11, "*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*" (Ephesians 6:11-12, ESV) And it says "therefore." So, in light of this enemy, this cosmic enemy, "... *take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand, in the evil day, and having done all stand firm.*" (Ephesians 6:13, ESV) And then he goes on to talk about the belt of truth, and the breastplate of righteousness and the shoes that you put on that are evidence of the gospel of peace, and in every situation, to take up the shield of faith and to be able to deal with the evil darts of the enemy. And to put on the helmet of salvation, and to hold

the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God and to pray at all times. I mean, this is one of the most incredible passages of scripture.

And y'all, here's what I want to suggest to us. That what happens in Ephesians 6:10-14 is a redemptive reversal of what takes place in First Samuel 17:38-40. You see, David could not put on the armor because he didn't have the strength. He didn't have the expertise, he didn't have the power, he didn't have all those things that were necessary to go out and wage war in the armor. But notice what happens in Ephesians 6:10. First, Paul says, "*Be strong in the Lord in the strength of his might.*" . It's an acknowledgement that, "Hey, yeah, you're right. We don't have the strength. We don't have the might. Because we have been empowered, because we have the strength of the Holy Spirit, notice all the different phrases for how we engage with the armor. They're all active verbs. 6:11, "... *put on ...* "; 6:13 "... *take up ...*"; 6:17, "... *take. ...* " So, instantly, we see how good Jesus is. Jesus is the greater David. Why? Because Jesus is kind and gracious enough to give us His own strength through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit earlier in Ephesians Chapters one , two and three talks about the Holy Spirit as our deposit. He's our seal of inheritance. He has indwelt in us, and He has given us power. Then when we get to Ephesians 6, because of the pilot Holy Spirit, we're able to put on this armor so we can deal with all these cosmic evil realities, hardships in our life. And we can put on this gracious gift, which is the armor of God for us.

But here's one final thought. I actually think Paul has another passage of scripture in mind. And that other passage is Isaiah 59:17-18. It actually starts at the end of verse 15. And this is the Lord. When it says "the LORD" it uses the intimate name of the Lord, Yahweh. And Yahweh "*saw it, and it displeased him...*" (Isaiah 59:15b, ESV). What displeased Him? "... *that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no one to intercede...*" And then catch this, "...*then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him.*" Now, this is the divine warrior Himself, Yahweh. Verse 17, "*He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak, according to their deeds...*" (Isaiah 59:16-18, ESV). And he goes on and on. This is incredible.

Here's what I think is happening. I think we're supposed to see both passages of scripture at the same time. We're supposed to see this reality that "Oh, yeah, just like with David, who was unable to put on the armor because he didn't have the strength. Now, because of the power of the Holy Spirit and the kindness of the greater David, King Jesus, we can put on the Spirit. We can put on the armor of God because we have the Spirit who empowers us to do such. But here's the other thing that I think Paul has for us. We're not putting on any arbitrary armor. It's not like we're putting on some random piece of armor in the closet. We're not even putting on Saul's armor. This is even better in the same way that a good king Saul, at that time, wanted to give his armor to David, here's what the greater King Jesus does for us, Isaiah 59, He gives us His very own armor to put on.

And I think this is such a comforting, hope-filled, confidence giving reality for you and me today. In our unseen places of hurt, in the moments where it feels like everything that could bring hope is absent, we can be reminded that the truth is, even in those moments, God has given us the power of His Holy Spirit. And because we have His Holy Spirit, the very same spirit that empowers Jesus throughout His earthly life and ministry, because of the kindness of King Jesus to require, to demand that the Holy Spirit come down and to fill His Church. Because of this good spirit of God who gives us power, we can put on Yahweh's armor, and we can deal with anything that comes our way. We don't have to be alone because we have the armor of King Jesus Himself. I hope that this is a passage — as we look at these three different places — helps us see how Jesus is the greater David and how Jesus is the greater Saul even in terms of the best king. And Jesus not only gives us His own armor. He gives us the power and the strength to wield His armor.

KLG: That's so good, Joel. As you were teaching, I got this vision of you building a bridge from the Old Testament to the New Testament through this teaching. I feel like that is the whole purpose of *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament*. It's seeing how Jesus has been Plan A all along and how the bridge helps us see Him all throughout Scripture. So, thank you for bringing that out in the teaching today. And then thank you for the reminder that every piece of the armor of God is very necessary and has a place and has a purpose. It's not this random armor that we put on. It is very intentional. Thank you for that reminder.

JM: Well, if we had another hour, I wish I could get into how when Paul describes this entire armor he's actually talking about the Roman legion and how the Roman soldiers had all the armor and how all the armor was very intentional. In fact, the most important part of the Romans armor was actually the belt. And it's really interesting that Paul said “stand firm having fastened on the belt of truth” [Ephesian 6:14, paraphrase] because y'all guess what? If your belt falls apart... Everything in the Roman army, the Roman soldier's armor, was all basically hooked onto the belt.

KLG: Oh no.

JM: Oh, no is right. If the belt fell down, y'all are in lots of trouble because everything is coming down with the belt. And I do think it's really intriguing that Paul says right here “*Stand therefore having fastened on...*” what? “...the belt of truth.” And here at Proverbs 31 Ministries, we believe what, Kendra? What's our saying that we talked about all the time?**KLG:** When we know the truth — the truth, being God's Word — and live the truth, it changes everything.

JM: Absolutely. And we really, really, really believe that the truth of the Gospel, the truth of Scripture is that Jesus has always — I loved how you said it — Jesus has always been Plan A. He doesn't randomly show up in the book of Matthew in a genealogy that Jesus has been present, He is co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son. He is a good, good king. And His presence is evident throughout the pages of the Old Testament that gives us confidence in the assurance of His presence in our life today.

KLG: Look at that, Joel, that was an extra teaching. That was a bonus everybody. That was not planned. There you go. To end the study, we get a bonus teaching. All right, well, let's go ahead and end our time together in prayer. So, let's pray. Heavenly Father, thank you so much for the opportunity to come together and learn from your Word, learn right from Scripture. Lord, thank You for the study and the way that we see the thread of Jesus from the Old Testament all the way into the New Testament, Lord. He doesn't just show up in Matthew, Lord, but He's been there since the beginning. Thank You for these reminders. We see humans, we see David and all his humanity and how he points to, ultimately your son Jesus. And so, we thank You for that, Lord. We pray over the study that it takes root in our hearts and that the Scripture comes about when we need it most, God. We thank You for your Spirit, that we are not alone in any situation that we may be facing, but we have you right beside us. It's in Your Son's name that we pray. Amen.