



DRESSED FOR BATTLE

Characters:

1. Narrator
2. General (with clipboard)
3. Tactical Advisor (TA) to the general (with clipboard)
4. Kingdom Armor Outfitters (KAO) Company Representative (professional blazer with KAO logo)(with clipboard)
5. KAO model - serious
6. Worldly Warriors Wardrobers (3W) Company Representative (professional blazer with 3W logo)(with clipboard)
7. 3W model - stylish, flamboyant

Props

- (2) Company signs - posterboard, company logos
- (2) belts (one thick and sturdy, one elastic/adjustable)
- (2) Breastplates (two vests - Righteousness of Christ, My Own Righteousness)
(one with tears and holes)
- (2) Shields (one strong material, one cardboard with holes, but bejeweled)
- (1) Helmets
- (1) Camo visor
- (2) Pair of Boots (one industrial with cleats, one smooth-soled and shiny, heels?)
- (2) Swords (one two-edged sword, one smaller)

DRESSED FOR BATTLE

Narrator: Two manufacturers of protective armor for today's soldier are vying for the defense armor contract. A 5-year contract will be awarded to the company whose armor best meets the army's upgraded specifications. Kingdom Armor Outfitters Ltd. (KAO), a division of JC International, is an established company with a reputation of proven resilience and endurance that has stood the test of time. Worldly Warriors Wardrobe Manufacturing Inc. (3W) is a company known world-wide for convenience, comfort and their ability to adapt to the culture. Over time, the company has been changeable, unpredictable, dependent upon the whims and fancies of society. They they have been accused in the past of inferior and flashy workmanship; however, their support of diversity, equity and inclusion has strengthened their acceptance in the current culture.

Today, each company will be presenting the components of armor that they manufacture for the approval of the General and his Tactical Advisor. Both claim that their armor provides exceptional protection for the soldiers on the battlefield as well as improving the soldier's effectiveness in combat. One of the challenges faced by these manufacturers is the stipulation that the armor must strengthen the warrior's outer and inner defenses. The armor must be reliable on the battlefield. There is a lot riding on the presentations today. The armor chosen will be adopted immediately for use in the on-going, never-ending war.

GENERAL: I want to thank each company in advance for your presentations here today. Our enemy is brutal and unrelenting. This is no ordinary enemy that we face. We aren't fighting against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age and against spiritual host of wickedness in high places. You can't trust anything that you have heard about this enemy, because he is known as the "Father of Lies," and his strategies are always based on deception.

I will introduce each component of the armor our soldiers need, and describe its specifications and our needs. Each company will then be given time to present and model their version. After each presentation, either I or my tactical advisor will call attention to any potential problem or weakness we observe, and each company will have the opportunity to respond.

Today we will begin with the **BELT OF TRUTH** which is the foundation of any armor. Our specifications require this belt to provide a firm and trustworthy foundation which will stabilize the soldier's entire armor. We'll start with Kingdom Armor:

KAO: I present to you our **Belt of Absolute Truth**, which I believe to be superior to anything on the market today. The truth of this belt is made to endure to all generations--it doesn't change over time. It consists of the entirety of God's Word and is embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. Because there is no truth to be found in the enemy, this belt tends to confuse the enemy. It is resistant to all winds of doctrine.

KAO Model (*model comes out wearing a thick and sturdy belt*) This belt will stay in place!

3W: Our **Belt of Relative Truth** is based on whatever feels right at the moment. It is based on personal belief and experience. It varies according to the soldier and the situation. It consists of tolerance, moral freedom and equality, all very popular materials. Note the elasticity of our belt. Our belt of relative truth will fit any soldier in any situation, because, as you will note (*stretches belt*), the truth can be stretched to meet the soldier's needs.

3W Model: (*model with stretch belt demonstrates its elasticity*) This belt moves and grows with me. I appreciate a little elasticity in my life and comfort is a must on the battlefield.

General: Comfort? Our soldiers need to be ready to endure very uncomfortable situations on the battlefield. They cannot function if they have concerns about the stability of their belt.

Tactical Advisor: General, I think that elasticity would actually work against the stability of the armor. Relative truth could be stretched to the point of no longer holding firm, and then the armor could fall apart.

GENERAL: The **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** is the next piece of armor. The breastplate protects our soldier's vital internal organs from the insidious attacks of the enemy. As you know, the enemy is an expert at using guilt, shame and regret to weaken the soldier to the point of ineffectiveness. His fiery darts will find any weakness.

KAO: I present to you our **Breastplate of the Righteousness of Christ**. Our core belief is that both our identity and righteousness must be found in the righteousness of Christ. It does not come from keeping the law because that is impossible; it comes from God by faith. Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. His righteousness is our indestructible breastplate. This breastplate is made from Jesus' righteousness and is coated in God's grace and mercy. Wearing this breastplate makes the soldier bold.

KAO Model: (*models a solid vest*) No holes to be found in this breastplate.

3W: Our **Breastplate of My Own Righteousness** is established on the belief that man is inherently good. The materials making up our breastplate are comprised of the soldier's efforts to keep the law as best she can, as well as her constant pursuit of a resume of accomplishments. Every soldier is right in her own eyes. Although a soldier is capable of making bad decisions, being authentic and true to one's self and following one's heart should protect the soldier's internal organs. When we are true to ourselves, our hearts will not lead us astray.

General: Hmmm....My question is: How reliable would a breastplate be that relies on what you feel in your heart? Our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.

KAO Model: *(models a vest with holes)* Wicked? How insulting!!!

Tactical Advisor: My concern is that the holes I see in this breastplate make the soldier very vulnerable. No one is righteous. Our enemy commonly accuses us in our vulnerable areas. Those holes are a serious issue because our enemy is a skilled sniper and sharpshooter. In the end, I am not sure that that this breastplate of my own righteousness, based on keeping rules and making right decisions, is sustainable over the course of a war.

3W Model: Well, nobody's perfect.

GENERAL: Moving on, the soldier's **BOOTS** play a major role in a soldier's armor. The boots will not only help the soldier stand firm when facing the battles of life, but provide the steadiness to advance and take ground from the enemy. The soldier's boots must be steadfast and immovable when needed, and then equipped to advance with the gospel or good news of peace when the opportunity arises or doors open. Boots must enable our soldiers to maneuver in every environment.

KAO: We are very proud of our **Combat Boots**. They have been manufactured under the strictest qualifications. You will notice the cleats on the bottom of each boot. The cleats serve two purposes for the soldier. When the soldier is standing, they help her to stand her ground in the face of opposition and persecution. But, as the soldier is on the go, advancing into enemy territory, the cleats will give stability as the gospel is shared in every nation.

KAO Model: *(carries boots out, displaying cleats)* These all-weather and all-terrain boots are strong and sturdy, the obvious choice.

3W: Our boots are **Boots of Compromise**--and look at how stylish they are. *(speaking to the KAO model)* Those boots are hideous! Our boots avoid confrontations and hard conversations. Don't they look good? Notice the smooth soles of compromise. Our boots are perfect for walking according to the course of this world. They are made to give the soldier the option of also moving backwards if retreat is called for, and making the graceful and flowing moves required if the soldier finds herself dancing with the enemy.

3W Model: *(carries stylish "dancing" boots out, showing smooth bottom)* I love "Dancing with the Stars!"

General: What kind of soldier would deliberately retreat or dance with the enemy??!!

Tactical Advisor: I would observe that a boot which allows retreat would not be effective in sharing the gospel, and those smooth soles of compromise might encourage backsliding as well. That makes our soldier an easy target. Dancing with the enemy is always discouraged, because the enemy will always take the lead.

General: Alright, the soldier needs a **SHIELD OF FAITH** to protect against the fiery darts of the enemy. Army specifications require that a shield must be fire-proof and made from a solid, strong material.

KAO: Our **Shield of Faith in God** is made of one of the strongest substances known to man, because the genuineness of this faith is tested by trials. Faith is of greater worth than gold. It is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. A soldier using this shield can walk by faith and not by sight. Faith shields us with God's power and relies on His promises.

KAO Model: (*models her shield*) Solid and proven - you can't beat this shield!

3W: Our **Shield of Faith in the Flesh** finds its strength in self-confidence, self-reliance, and believing in oneself. It is reinforced by the soldier's abilities, talents, skills and accomplishments. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life supply the boldness to advance on the enemy.

3W Model: (*models her shield*) My shield is my statement piece, don't you think? The enemy will see what he's up against and be blinded by its bedazzled glory. The enemy would think twice before sending his fiery darts to ruin its perfectly polished glossy finish.

General: I'm not sure you have any concept of what our enemy is capable of!

Tactical Advisor: Who do you think your enemy is? Louis Vitton? Our enemy is not put off by shiny impressive accomplishments. He sees right through those. It actually fuels his attack! On the battlefield, self-confidence is a target that is easily shot down by the enemy. What seems like gain is actually loss. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life are actually great weaknesses, and leave the soldier open to attack. Relying on our flesh provides no protection in combat. While a shield of flesh may seem attractive and may appear bold, it is only a pretense. It leads to pride, and pride comes before a fall. Without true faith as a shield, victory is impossible.

GENERAL: The soldier's **HELMET OF SALVATION** is essential to protect our soldiers' heads, minds and thoughts. Many a battle has been lost first in a soldier's mind. A soldier's helmet should protect, but not limit, her vision and perspective. The helmet determines the soldier's worldview. It provides security and assurance.

KAO: We totally agree. The helmet we manufacture is a **Helmet of Salvation**. Salvation gives the soldier an eternal perspective, and the knowledge that there is more to this life. This is not all there is. Salvation gives the soldier assurance that the war is already won by the blood of Jesus Christ. While some battles may be lost along the way, the final victory is found in salvation. This helmet also filters out fear, insecurity and discouragement. Wearing this helmet makes the soldier mighty in God for pulling down enemy strongholds. Those arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God cannot penetrate. It keeps our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ.

KAO Model: (*Models the helmet*) My mind and thoughts will be kept safe going into battle.

3W: (*disgusted*) That helmet of salvation is outdated and oppressive. It is biased and narrow-minded. Notice the openness of our light-weight **Helmet of Tolerance**. Our helmet allows the soldier to be open-minded and accepting of all points of view. Our helmet's openness is open to many opinions, doctrines, philosophies, vain deceits and viewpoints after the tradition of men. It has a protective coating of positive thinking.

3W Model: (*Models the visor*)

General: Hmmm...I don't see that your helmet, if that's what you call it, provides our soldier with any protection!

Tactical Advisor: I feel that this helmet would prove to be weak and inadequate in the midst of serious opposition on the battlefield. There is no way to cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against God. In fact, it leaves the soldier's mind vulnerable to attack and confusion.

3W Model: But my hair will look great. Hers?? There is no going back from "helmet" hair!

GENERAL: Finally we come to the soldier's offensive weapon--the **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**. The offensive weapon carried by our soldiers must be sharp and deadly. It should be made of material that does not weaken over time.

KAO: I believe I can confidently tell you that our sword, a **Sword of the Spirit**, which is the Word of God, is sharper than any two-edged sword on the market today. Made of the purest alloy, it can pierce and divide the soul and spirit and the joints and marrow. It discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart. It is living and it is powered by the Holy Spirit. When a soldier wields this sword, she can effectively disarm the enemy and face temptations victoriously.

KAO Model: (*demonstrates wielding her sword*)

3W: Well, our **Pretty Sharp Sword** is usually effective in battle. It consists of sharp words, disputes and arguments, designed to vanquish any enemy with the soldier's own vain words. Sarcasm, scorn, malice, wrath, bitterness and lies are all options. Words hold the power of life and death, you know.

3W Model: (*demonstrates her folding cardboard sword*) This sword is so convenient to carry with you!

Tactical Advisor: Those words may have power to destroy, but can they truly destroy the enemy of our souls?

3W Model: Oh yeah?? Well I'm rubber and you're glue. Whatever you say bounces off of me and sticks to you. So there!

Tactical Advisor: *(looks at General)* Is she for real? *(General and Tactical Advisor compare notes)*

GENERAL: Thank you so much for your presentations today. After hearing the presentations and the observations of my Tactical Advisor, I would like to congratulate the Kingdom Armor Outfitters who have decisively won this bid. I believe their armor has proved to be stronger and more efficient in every way, and we are happy to award you the contract.

3W: With all due respect, General, the truth of the matter is that the today's consumer does not want the rigidity and unchanging nature of the KAO armor. The consumer wants versatility, constant flexibility, and comfort and convenience are a must.

GENERAL: Truth? You can't handle the truth! We're dealing with soldiers in war, not consumers looking for party outfits on discount racks. So if you want to talk truth, KAO's mission statement of unwavering commitment to God's truth is what our soldiers need in order to face the daily attacks of the enemy.

3W: Suit yourself. We're not going anywhere. Just because Worldly Warriors didn't get your contract, believe me, there are plenty of people who want what we're selling.

KAO: Sir, thank you sir! Our armor is excellent, and I do believe you will be pleased. However, I want to remind you that winning the battle is dependent upon the soldier putting on the armor daily. She must not only put on the armor, but she must supply the prayer and supplication in the Spirit with perseverance. She must be in constant communication with Headquarters. That is a key to the effectiveness of this armor in spiritual battle. Prayer is a potent secret weapon of critical importance in war. I would suggest that you provide training to your soldiers in the area of effectively wielding prayer before and during battle.

GENERAL: We plan to do just that.

Narrator: I'm sorry to say that while the Kingdom Armor proved to be a solid and decisive winner in every area, the Worldly Warrior Armor is conveniently accessible to anyone who wants it, and many do choose it. In general, it appears more popular, even though lives are being lost everyday with the little protection that armor provides. Their armor will not effectively face the enemy of our souls. It is deceiving many, who try in vain to use it effectively, but it is only an illusion of strength. It is recommended that all soldiers take up the whole armor as presented by the Kingdom Army Outfitters.

THE END