

Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament, Week 1

KM = Katie McCown

KL = Kendra LeGrand

Kendra LeGrand: Hi, First 5 friends! My name is Kendra LeGrand and it's my pleasure to welcome you to our weekend teaching. If you don't know me, I am the Senior Manager of the Ministry Studies team here at Proverbs 31 Ministries. I'm excited to have the opportunity to start hosting First 5 Weekend Teachings on a regular basis. If you tuned in to the last weekend teaching for *Joshua*, you heard Hannah Schindler say goodbye as our weekend host. I'm happy to say that Hannah has answered "yes" to the call to serve her family full-time at home. I look forward to this new journey that you and I are going to go on together. Now that we have become official, First 5 friends, let's jump into what we have in store for you today.

We just finished Week 1 of our study *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament* in the First 5 app. And today we have joining us one of our First 5 writers Katie McCown. Katie, how are you doing today?

Katie McCown: I am doing good Kendra, I'm so glad to be here.

KL: Oh, we're glad to have you. Before we hear your teaching we are going to go over today's Major Moments.

- Genesis 2 | Adam and Eve were given dominion over creation, but Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all things.
- Exodus 4 | Moses was called by God to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But Jesus was sent by God to free all people from the enslavement of sin.
- Joshua 1 | Joshua was appointed as the shepherd to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. But Jesus came as the Good Shepherd who would lead us into the promise of rest for our souls.
- 1 Samuel 16 | David was the great king Israel longed for to free them from oppression. But King Jesus came to free us from the grip of our own sin and shame.
- Esther 8 | Esther was sent to the king to advocate for the saving of the Jews, but Jesus was sent to earth to reclaim all of humanity, Jews and Gentiles alike.

Katie, we're excited to hear what you have to share.

KM: Well, I am excited! You mentioned the Major Moment for Joshua 1, and in the app this week, that is the chapter that I taught on. What was exciting was as I was digging into this connection between Joshua and *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament*, the Major Moment for Joshua 1 says, "Jesus came as the Good Shepherd who would lead us into the promise of rest for our souls." Today in this weekend teaching, we're going to take that rest for our souls to even deeper. Maybe to another level than what we were able to discuss in the app this week. So, I'm going to start with a verse in Nehemiah for fun. But we're coming back to the Joshua and Jesus connection, OK., But let me start and read this verse to you in Nehemiah 8:17. Here's what it

says, *“And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of...”* —and this is ESV *“... Jeshua the son of Nun...”* Other translations will say, *“Joshua the son of Nun.”* *“...to that day, the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing.”* So that's Nehemiah 8, that is talking about this festival, and we're going to get into that in a minute, and then it says, from the days of Joshua, that people had not done this, *“And there was very great rejoicing.”* (Nehemiah 8:17, ESV)

So, we've finished Christmas time. And I don't know if the same thing happens at your house that happens at my house, but I have six children. And there's this annual thing that goes on in our house. Around Christmas time, whether we're at our home, or whether we go to grandma's house, there will be presents wrapped up in pretty wrapping paper. The bows at my mother-in-law's house are way more extravagant than any bow that would ever be found at my house. She does these beautiful bows on the presents. So, they're all wrapped and under the tree and they're waiting for the day that you're allowed to open them, right?

All my kids will anticipate the day that they can open these gifts. But when they see them, they will go to the gifts, they will pick them up, they will shake them, they will hold them up to their ears, they will kind of weigh them, right? Like does yours weigh more than mine? Whose is heavier? Whose is lighter? And they will imagine what might be inside of those gifts. And it occurred to me one year as I was watching them do this that while they were so excited to imagine what might be inside, they had not yet received the gift. They had it in their hands. They were thinking about it, they were anticipating it, but they had not received the gift. They didn't enjoy the gift until they unwrapped it, and opened it and accepted it. So, keep that in mind as we go through this teaching today. I'm going to circle back to that at the end.

So, let's get back to this celebration in Nehemiah 8:17 that is mentioned. I'll read it in the NIV. Nehemiah 8:17 says, *“From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great.”* So, what they were celebrating was called the Feast of Booths. It was also called the Feast of Tabernacles, or even the Feast of Ingathering. And it's talked about in Leviticus 23:40-43. Here's what that says about the Feast of Booths, *“And you shall take on the first day of the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. You shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”* (ESV)

So, that gives you a little more of a picture as to how they celebrated and why they celebrated. The feast was designed to be a memorial of the wilderness wanderings when the people dwelt in booths. And then it was also designed to be a Harvest Thanksgiving, which is where we are in Nehemiah Chapter 8. It was an eight-day celebration immediately after the harvest. And during that period, the people left their homes and lived in the booths — that were mentioned in the scriptures in Leviticus — formed of the branches and the trees that we read about. And I want to read what one scholar wrote about this feast. Remember, I said it could be the Feast of Booths, it

could also be called the Feast of Tabernacles, which is what he calls it. And this is what he says, “The Feast of Tabernacles, the harvest festival of the Jewish church was the most popular and important festival after the captivity...” — which is what is happening in Nehemiah — “...at Jerusalem; it was a gala day. Roofs and courtyards, streets and squares, roads and gardens were green with bows of Citron and Myrtle, Palm and Willow. The booths were called the pilgrimage through the wilderness, the ingathering of fruits prophesied of this spiritual harvest.” And as we read in Nehemiah, this had not happened since the days of Joshua. So, that gives you a good picture, I hope of what the Feast of Booths was, how they celebrated it and why the Jewish people celebrated it.

What's interesting though, is that if you go through the book of Joshua, you don't find a chapter about them celebrating this in the book of Joshua, but what you do find is Joshua 1:7-8 when God says to Joshua, “*Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*” (ESV)

So, we read that the Feast of Booths was a part of God's commands in Leviticus, and then we read what God said to Joshua in Chapter 1. Though it is not specifically mentioned in the book of Joshua, we can assume, and this verse in Nehemiah confirms, Joshua obeyed God's command.

First, he obeyed God's command to do all that the law of Moses commanded and second, he obeyed God's command to keep t what the law said. He obeyed God's command in Joshua Chapter 1. I love how through the book of Joshua, in Chapter 8, you see Joshua, renew the covenant with the people. And then this is really my favorite, in Joshua Chapter 23 at the end of Joshua's life, listen to how this echoes what God said to Joshua. Joshua is speaking to the people, and this is what he says, “*Therefore, be very strong, to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, but that you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day.*” (Joshua 23:6-8, ESV) I think it's such a beautiful echo of the command that God gave Joshua in Chapter 1 that Joshua was now leading the people with in Chapter 23.

We can see how during Joshua's day, they did obey the Word of the Lord, which included celebrating the Feast of Booths. This whole study is called *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament*, and this is where it gets exciting. We know that there was this very great time of rejoicing that happened in the time of Joshua as they celebrated the Feast of Booths. Well, now let's go to the New Testament in John Chapter 7. In John Chapter 7, we see Jesus at the Feast of Booths, and Jesus becomes the fulfillment of what the Feast of Booths anticipated. In John Chapter 7:37-38 this is what we read, “*On the last day of the feast...*,” The Feast of Booths is what it's referring to. “*On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, 'If anyone thirsts,*

let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of His heart will flow rivers of living water".” (ESV)

OK, let me expand quickly on the Feast of Booths, because at a later time, there were introduced two new practices or new traditions, if you will, that would happen at this festival. One of those was the drawing of water from the pool of Siloam and pouring it out on the altar as a memorial of the water from the rock in Horeb, which is Old Testament when I was bringing the people out of Egypt. But this act was to prophesy of a spiritual rain that would be poured out by God in the Messianic age. So, it was looking ahead to the promised Messiah. When they started drawing this water out and pouring it on the altar, it was anticipating the time when God would send the Messiah.

And so now here we have Jesus at the Feast of Booths, the feast that was celebrated in Joshua as he led the people to obey God's commands. The feast that was celebrated in Nehemiah and now we have Jesus at this feast, and Jesus is saying, “*If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink.*” (John 7:37, ESV) Why? “Because I am the promised Messiah, I am Him. I am the one you have been waiting on.” These words that He says here and John 7, echo the same words that Jesus said a few chapters before in John Chapter 4, when He was speaking to the woman at the well. And He tells her “*...whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water, welling up to eternal life.*” (John 4:13, ESV) So, we can see how all the way back in Joshua, as Joshua led the people into the Promised Land, and he led the people to obey God's commands, including the celebration of the Feast of Booths, we can look forward to Jesus and how He became the fulfillment of what the Feast of Booths anticipated.

And here's what I want to leave you with. The words that Jesus said in John 7:37 include this one specific word: **come**. In John 7:37, “*Jesus stood up and cried out if anyone thirsts, let him **come** to me and drink.*” (ESV) We mentioned how that echoes the conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman at the well in John Chapter 4. And her response to Jesus' words, “*...whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.*” (John 4:13, ESV) She then goes into her town, and she says, “**Come**, see a man who told me all I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” (John 4:29, ESV)

And then in Revelation 22, the ultimate celebration. It says, “*The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'come.' And let the one who is thirsty **come**; let the one who desires to take the water of life without price*” (Revelation 22:17, ESV). In this verse, the bride is the Church. In Revelation 19:7, it tells us a little bit more about the bride. It says, “*Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready...*” (ESV) So, we have that invitation to come today. And as we receive all of this, as we hear all of this, I want us to think about how we can apply it.

And I'll leave you with these two things: First, Revelation 22:17 says, “*Let the one who is thirsty 'Come.'*” (ESV) So, let's be thirsty. The Amplified Bible defines a thirsty person like this, “one who is painfully conscious of his need of those things, which the soul is refreshed, supported and strengthened.” I'm going to read that again. A thirsty person is “one who is painfully conscious

of his need of those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported and strengthened. And we know according to Revelation 22:17, that only thing which will refresh, support and strengthen the soul is Jesus.

And so, the application for when we say, let's be thirsty, the question we want to ask ourselves is, where have I gone? Other than Jesus, to find refreshment, support, or strength? If you're listening, you may want to write that down, because it's not always easy to answer these kinds of questions on the fly. So, we want to be thirsty, so that we come to Jesus and drink the living water. And in order to do that, we need to ask ourselves the question, "Where have I gone other than Jesus to find refreshment, support or strength for my soul."

The second thing that I want us to think about is taking the water of life freely. The last part of Revelation 22:17 says, "*Let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*" Other translations will say, "*Whoever wishes, let you take the water of life without cost.*" (NASB) So, let's go all the way back to the beginning when I told you that story about my kids and their Christmas presents, and how they would hold them and shake them and, and listen and see how heavy they were. But they only received the gift when they opened it. When they opened it and received it.

When we talk about freely taking the water of life, the living water of Christ, I want us to ask ourselves, have I opened, have I truly opened the gift of His living water? Or have I only come to it, maybe picked it up, maybe imagined how amazing it might be, but never truly received it. And some indicators of that are when we are still trying hard to win the approval of God. When we're keeping a list of things we've done right, or things we've done wrong, and we're measuring our effort to see if it's going to be good enough. Those might be indicators that we are only holding or shaking or imagining the water of life without price, but we haven't truly received it. Let's take the water of life, freely. It has been given to us as a gift by grace, through faith in Jesus. Our two, our two takeaways here would be: 1) let's be thirsty and 2) let's take the water of life freely.

KL: Katie, thank you so much for that teaching. I know it was convicting for me. I think one of my favorite things about it was the connection to the mission of Proverbs 31, the whole idea of knowing the truth and not knowing it in our head but actually letting it take root in our hearts. Because when we know the truth then we can live it out and it changes everything. It's very similar to Jesus coming to the woman at the well. Her life was completely changed because the interaction. Thank you so much for the application and that teaching to show us all of that.

I would love to close us in prayers so let's go ahead and pray. Heavenly Father, thank You for this time that we have together to hear this message and open Your Word which changes everything. I pray that we can meditate on the Scripture that Katie presented to us today. And I pray that we can obey maybe the way that You are challenging our hearts with this message, Lord, that we can take a step to being changed. God and help us to cling to You ultimately, knowing that You are the one that we need most. I thank You for this message. I thank You for what You're teaching us through this study and through Your Word most of all. Lord, I thank You for this time that we have together. It's in Your Son's name that we pray, Amen.