

# Jethro – The Pries of Midian

## Things to Consider

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## The Setting

**Ex 18:1-12** *And Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people — that the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt. 2 Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, 3 with her two sons, of whom the name of one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land") 4 and the name of the other was Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh"); 5 and Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God. 6 Now he had said to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her." 7 So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and kissed him. And they asked each other about their well-being, and they went into the tent. 8 And Moses told his father-in-law all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them on the way, and how the Lord had delivered them. 9 Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the Lord had done for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. 10 And Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. 11 Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them." 12 Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and other sacrifices to offer to God. And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God. NKJV*

Jethro was a priest of Midian. He worshiped the \_\_\_\_\_ true God.

Jethro had been taking care of Moses' family while Moses was busy leading God's people out of Egypt.

Jethro had \_\_\_\_\_ about God's deliverance prompting him to contact Moses about reuniting with his family.

On the first day of their meeting, Moses gave Jethro a firsthand account of how God \_\_\_\_\_ them from Egypt.

Jethro offered sacrifices to God and shared a meal with Aaron and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.

**Ex 18:13-16** *And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. 14 So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?" 15 And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. 16 When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws." NKJV*

Moses sat to judge the people \_\_\_\_\_ day.

When Jethro saw this, he asked Moses why he was the \_\_\_\_\_ one judging the people.

Moses' response shows that he did it because he thought it was the \_\_\_\_\_ way to judge the people. He thought it was the best way to judge the people.

### **The Advice**

**Ex 18:17-27** *So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. 18 Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. 19 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. 20 And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 22 And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. 23 If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace." 24 So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. 25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 26 So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves. 27 Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way to his own land. NKJV*

Jethro boldly told Moses that the way he was judging the people was **not** good.

The system Moses was using was wearing out Moses and the **people**.

Jethro starts out by approving of two things Moses was doing. First, he should continue to take the people's difficulties to God.

Second, he was to continue teaching them the statutes and laws of God and to instruct them in how they should live to please God.

His unique advice:

1. Select men to help you.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ men
  - b. Men who fear God
  - c. Men of \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Men who hate covetousness.
2. The people will take the small matters to the men selected for this purpose.
3. Every great matter, Moses would \_\_\_\_\_ to judge.

**Acts 6:1-4** *Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." NKJV*

The benefits:

1. It would be \_\_\_\_\_ for Moses.
2. The people could go home in \_\_\_\_\_. This will be better for them because they won't have to wait so long to have their cases heard.

Moses \_\_\_\_\_ the advice!

**Deut 1:9-18** *"And I spoke to you at that time, saying: 'I alone am not able to bear you. 10 The Lord your God has multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. 11 May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you! 12 How can I alone bear your problems and your burdens and your complaints? 13 Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.' 14 And you answered me and said, 'The thing which you have told us to do is good.' 15 So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and knowledgeable men, and made them heads over you, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, leaders of tens, and officers for your tribes. 16 "Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him. 17 You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.' 18 And I commanded you at that time all the things which you should do. NKJV*

Moses said that he alone could not bear the people's problems, burdens and

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
Here we learn that the men were to be wise, understanding, and knowledgeable.  
We also learn that the people \_\_\_\_\_ the leaders.

### **The Application**

- Our shepherds are good at seeking council from others. Right now, they are actively seeking counsel from the congregation when it comes to our classes for next year. I know it's been tough since we have had to postpone our curriculum meeting, but I think it speaks well of our elders to see the need for congregational input. Provide wise council!
- The elders are also very good at seeking input from our deacons and preachers. They also, from what I've seen, allow others to take ownership of their area and make recommendations to the elders that are valued by them.
- We enjoy peace at PSD. We want that to continue. One of the issues in Moses' day was that the people were complainers with no faith. I'm sure Moses had to help solve conflicts between people. Our shepherds can do that today. If you are in conflict with another Christian and can't seem to get it solved, seek out their help.
- The challenge for the rest of us is to be easy to get along with. If we all love one another and have God living in us, we shouldn't all have to rush to the elders to solve conflict. There will be enough natural, good "conflict" that they have to guide us through.
- Be proactive in seeking the elder's help. Don't wait for a situation to get so bad that it takes a long time to undo a lot of hurt that has been caused.
- If you see something that could be done better by the elders/preachers, feel free to let us know. Offering suggestions like Jethro did is a good thing!
- Don't be complainers like the Israelites were.
- Give others the benefit of the doubt. Especially about the COVID vaccine.
- Trust God!