



Exodus 18:1-27

SHARING OUR BURDENS

This chapter forms the transition to the Law. There has been the deliverance, the testing passages, the provision in the wilderness and the warfare. Any God who can do all this for His people deserves their allegiance. In chapter 18 the Lawgiver is giving advice, using laws and rulings; but then he is given advice to organize the elders to assist. Thus, when the Law is fully revealed, a system will be in place to administer it. The point of the passage is that a great leader humbly accepts advice from other godly believers to delegate responsibility. He does not try to do it all himself; God does not want one individual to do it all. –Allen Ross

Review

In summary, Moses recorded seven experiences that the Israelites had as they traveled between the Red Sea and Mount Sinai:

1. They praised God with the Song of Moses at the Red Sea (15:1-21).
2. They found no good water at Marah in the wilderness of Shur (15:22-26).
3. They found food and drink at Elim (15:27).
4. God provided manna and quail in the wilderness of Sin (16:1-36).
5. They found no water at Rephidim (17:1-7).
6. They defeated Amalek in battle at Rephidim (17:8-16).
7. Jethro advised Moses at Mt. Sinai (18:1-27).

--Constable

(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) Numbers 12:3

- 1. Moses and Jethro and family were reunited and they joined together in worship of God for all He had done for Israel in the journey from Egypt. 18:1-12**

- Jethro had heard of the work of God on behalf of the nation.
- Jethro reunited Zipporah, Gershom, and Eliezer with Moses.
- Moses declared to Jethro all that God had done for the

*“Simply put, trust means confidence. The opposite of trust—distrust—is suspicion. When you trust people, you have confidence in them—in their integrity and in their abilities. When you distrust people, you are suspicious of them—of their integrity, their agenda, their capabilities, or their track record. It’s that simple.”
Stephen Covey*

*“All leaders make one critical decision consciously or unconsciously: They decide whether to use their power to serve themselves or to serve others. The choice is between servant leadership and self-serving leadership. Essentially this is an issue of character. God’s character is a necessary qualification for Christian leadership.”
Andrew Seidel*

*“The important thing about delegating responsibilities is that you have leaders who have ability and character, ‘able men, such fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness.’ These qualifications remind us of the experience of the early church in finding people to assist the apostles and relieve them of lesser duties (Acts 6:1-7). These assistants had to have good reputations, be full of the Spirit and wisdom, and approved by the people.”
Warren Wiersbe*

*“The fact that Moses acted on Jethro’s advice is almost certain evidence that he recognized that God was speaking to him through this man.”
G. Campbell Morgan*

“God’s work will be done regardless, but if we don’t get involved, we will miss out. God’s work will be done

“The story of Jethro’s visit contrasts

- nation in the Exodus from Egypt.
- Jethro joined Moses and the leaders of the nation in celebrating the greatness of God.

Application: Humble leaders who see and hear about the work of God choose to join with other likeminded believers in _____ of God.

2. Jethro identified the work of Moses as burdensome and wisely encouraged him to pick men of integrity to join him in making decisions on behalf of the people. 18:13-23

- Jethro questioned how Moses was leading the people.
- Moses answered that he had to decide the will of God for the people.
- Jethro said the work of Moses was too much for one man.
- Jethro wisely told Moses to choose godly leaders to help him.
- Moses should prioritize the difficult cases.
- Jethro declared his suggested approach to leadership would help Moses lead well.

Application: Humble leaders who choose _____ to join them in the work of the ministry will lighten their burdens and accomplish much for the glory of God.

Note: The biblical guidelines for choosing leaders in ministry is always based on **character**. Exodus 18:21; Deuteronomy 1:9-18; Acts 6:3-4,7; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4

3. Moses humbly followed the wisdom of Jethro. 18:24-27

Application: Humble leaders willingly _____ the wisdom of trustworthy people to accomplish much for the glory of God.

Questions to Consider

- What are you doing to share the goodness and faithfulness of God with those you love?
- How are you doing in joining with others in celebratory worship of the goodness of God?
- Who are the godly people in your life who are sharing wisdom with you?
- How are you doing in inviting godly people to join you in the work of the ministry?
- How are you doing in joining with godly leaders in the work of the ministry?