

Chidinma Umeh
Dr. David Emmanuel
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Jethro Advice to Moses

During Exodus 18, readers become familiarized with Jethro, the father-in-law to Moses and grandfather to Gershom and Eliezer. In chapter 18, Jethro's personality and wisdom is made apparent during Exodus 18. In addition, we become aware of Jethro's relationship with the Lord and the impact he had. This paper aims to familiarize ourselves with the event that occurs in Exodus 18 through summarization, discuss the effect Jethro had on Moses, the things Moses was doing wrong, and one way we can apply this message to our personal lives.

In the beginning of Exodus 18, Jethro becomes aware of what the Lord has done for Moses and his people. As readers continue to read, we become familiarized with the relations between Moses and Jethro. In verse 9, it becomes apparent how delighted Jethro feels about the situation as he praises the Lord and offers other sacrifices to show his appeasement regarding the situation. This gives the reader insight and understanding regarding Jethro's relationship and respect towards the Lord. Later on in verse 13, it becomes apparent that Moses serves as a judge for the people from morning till evening, helping those around him seek God's will regarding specific situations in their lives. When Jethro becomes aware of this situation, he lets Moses know that his actions are not good. Jethro explains how the workload may be too much for only him to handle. In verse 21, Jethro advises Moses to look for "capable men from all the people-men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain, (NIV)" and appoint them as officials. Jethro continues to explain how the men Moses chooses could help him with situations that are not too complicated so that Moses would be able to focus on the more complex cases. After hearing Jethro's advice, Moses decides to listen to him and appoints men capable of taking the position.

In my opinion, I felt like Jethro was a sage man. Jethro realized that what Moses did would be too much of a strain. Although Moses was a prophet, it is essential to recognize that he alone could not complete every task the Lord appointed. Ultimately, it is necessary to realize that at the end of the day, Moses is a mere human being, just like the rest of God's people. I believe Jethro was able to realize that and help Moses recognize that what he was doing was wrong. In my opinion, if Moses would have continued down this road, I believe there would be a possibility that his mindset would have eventually been distorted by the power this position held. When a man is put in a position of authority and sole power, it can be easy for the mind to be filled with greed- at the end of the day, we are humans capable of sin. Another possibility could be that Moses would have been burnt out due to the expectations this position required.

One way I can apply this to my life is by realizing that sometimes the number of expectations I may be putting on myself may be more than I can take on. As a nursing student, a tutor for nursing, and the President of the National Student Nurses Association at Alliance University, I find myself wanting to take on more roles and activities to make sure things are stable within the nursing program, when in reality, the things that I have taken on may already be wearing me out. As a nursing student, I must take a step back and understand that I always have peers and others in my cohort who are reliable and able to help take on those roles so that things are appropriately distributed to avoid exhaustion or imbalanced power distribution. Another way I can apply this to my life is by listening to those around me. Just as Moses was able to have someone as particular as Jethro in this life to help guide him, I need to listen to those around me who are taking the time to guide me in the right direction out of my interest.