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Assignment Question: 1

In the opening of Exodus 18, Jethro Visits Moses. Jethro is Moses' father-in-law. Jethro arrives in this chapter with Zipporah and her two sons. At this time, we see Moses share what God has done for the Israelites. Jethro begins to praise and brings blessings to the Lord and sacrifices to God. When Moses continues his work of judging cases, Jethro appears and begins questioning Moses about what he is doing. Moses then explains, "Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me" to help them with any disputes with one another on God's behalf. Jethro digresses with what Moses is doing and then begins to give Moses great wisdom.

Jethro begins to give Moses great advice. He starts with, "What you are doing is not good. 18 You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone." Here we are told that what Moses is doing now isn't Good for himself as well as the others he is helping, for its only purpose is himself sitting and helping small individuals at a time when many stand around and wait for him. He works long days every day disputing problems to God for many. Moses hoped to help every individual with their issues between themselves and others, But when confronted by his father-in-law. He began to receive advice on all the wrongs Moses was doing. So Jethro begins to bring advice.

Jethro begins by sharing, "You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. 20 Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave." This knowledge given to Moses would only help him with himself and his future practice. Moses was working and assisting others alone all day to bring learning to others for God. When Jethro begins to tell him, he must not only help them with their disputes but also bring God to them then and for their future. They shouldn't only be helped with the present issue, but Moses should be able to provide them with everlasting help from God. To give wisdom to them about what God can do for them and one another. To ensure them with strength from him and not always rely on Moses. This knowledge would help Moses improve his practice and relationships with the Lord.

This is one of many pieces of knowledge Jethro provided him. Next, Jethro continues, "select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, the fifties and tens." Moses is only working alone now, taking in all these people's disputes and problems and bringing them to God. His father-in-law sees this and is aware of how this will affect Moses. He provides Moses with the knowledge to find more people capable of doing such work as himself. Men who are trustworthy and honest can approach many to help them with their disputes, just as Moses is. This small amount of advice can relieve Moses from many in a quick and straightforward aspect. Jethro then gives Moses his final amount of guidance.

Moses understands what his father-in-law has told him now. Once Moses has his dedicated group of capable men, he must have "they serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves."

This will only help Moses with the amount of work he will be doing. Jethro tells him this will make his work loud and lighter. He will be able to help all as he wished when starting, but the men he picked will be able to provide the information shared with them and allow Moses to bring them to God still. This knowledge will help Moses individually and bring satisfaction to all who seek him and satisfy them. They can grow with Moses and trust the wisdom of thousands.

Moses took all that his father-in-law had given him. He went and chose men from Israel that were in Jethro's description. Moses took them and turned them into leaders. He then had them serve as judges for the people, and if something were brutal or harsh, Moses would be brought to the topic. With this chapter and the knowledge Moses received from Jethro, I can use this to remind me that I don't necessarily have to do everything alone. Asking for help is sometimes the best thing overall. When looking at my life every day, I cram as much as possible into one thing. This chapter of Exodus reminded me that I don't need to have every minute of my day wholly booked with events. It's okay to have time to myself and look for others to help me when I need a break, just as Moses did with the help of Jethro.