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Jethro and Moses in Exodus Chapter 18

Jethro was Moses's father-in-law. When he heard all that the God of Israel had done to the Israelites, he decided to go with Sephora, Moses' wife and her two sons to the wilderness where Moses was with the people God delivered from Pharaoh.

When they met, Moses told them all that God had done to the Egyptians for the sake of the Israelites. They rejoiced, ate, and offered burnt offerings and sacrifices to God. The next morning Moses gathered with the people as they brought their inquiries and problems to him which he would provide them with solutions. There were so many people Moses had to deal with that he would spend all day dealing with their matters. Jethro saw what was happening and advised Moses to select godly men to help him. Moses followed his father-in-law's advice and placed God fearing men in charge of groups teaching them the law and judging matters. Whatever matters were not easily resolved, were taken to Moses.

Now Moses was doing something wrong and it was taking on too large of a burden for one man. It was a lot of work having to hear the problems of so many people and provide them all with solutions. It was also hard on the people to have to wait all day to have their issues heard. It seemed like Moses did not have the time for anything else, which would not be good for Israel. Plus, it would not have been good for Moses' health and his family.

Jethro advised Moses that it was not wise of him to handle all the inquiries of the people on his own. He suggested that godly men from the congregation be selected and placed over different amounts of the people. Every group leader would take care of the needs of their people, and all the difficult issues, Moses would personally handle.

From this chapter I learned that Jethro was a wise man who was good at problem solving. The advice he gave Moses was very good and appropriate. He also was a good father and grandfather. When Moses brought the Israelites to the desert and Jethro knew where he was, he took his daughter and grandsons which were with him and brought them to Moses. I guess he thought Moses will be happy to celebrate their victory with his wife and sons. Moses and Jethro had a good relationship. The Bible says: "So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, vowed down, and kissed him" (Exo 18:24). Jethro feared God. The Bible says: "Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and other sacrifices to offer to God" (Exo 18:12). Jethro showed interest in Moses' wellbeing and the people with him. This is evident in his suggestion to appoint good men to help Moses with judging the people.

One of the lessons I can take away from this chapter is that working with others is better. Everyone has a gift and it is important that we give them an opportunity to use it. This is true whether at church, work, school, or home. Team work is imperative to obtain a better outcome for everyone. It also prevents a person from getting burnt out and developing health problems.