

**Written Reflection Assignment on Exodus 18**

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Old Testament Literature: Introduction to the study of Old Testament Literature

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Good day, my name is Nicole Wright, and it is a pleasure to take this course. I am looking forward to gaining more knowledge and understanding as I go along with you and my fellow classmates and dissect the Bible this semester.

We were asked to summarize Exodus 18 and I have taken from this chapter in Exodus that Jethro was indeed an observant, noble, and wise individual. Jethro, who was the priest of Midian, father to Zipporah (who was the wife of Moses) and father in law to Moses had heard about everything that God had done for Moses and his people of Israel and how he had brought Israel out of Egypt. Why do I say observant, noble and wise? Simply because he observed Moses in his action and interaction with the people, took a burnt offering and sacrifice for God. He then offered wise instruction to Moses to help him in his journey.

He traveled to Moses to see for himself what and all that he had heard and learned about in what God had done for Moses and how he helped the Israelites get out of Egypt and delivered them. All of the Elders had come just to sit before God and eat bread with him. All the while Moses made himself alone available for the people in reference to God for what ever was needed. Jethro sat and watched the interactions with the people, the enquires towards God and his son in law. In Jethro's observation he noticed in actual how many people needed guidance or needed to be attended to and knew for a fact that it would eventually consume

and drain him. Which in part could/would hurt him not only physically but spiritually as well I would think.

What I can see that Moses was doing wrong was that he was taking on too much of the load and wanting to be the main one because He knew what God was requiring from them. I know and understand just how much Moses loved and revered the Lord but he needed help. Jethro had instructed him to use his discernment and faith to choose people to be overseers of certain things and help him. Take a selection of men who are able, who fear God, who are men of truth and despise things of the world that are not of God. For what does it profit a man to gain the world and loose his soul? Teaching them the ways and the laws and giving them instruction, making and helping them to understand the way to go and the things to do that are right. Helping them to get the big picture so that they know what is needed and equip them for the road to be traveled ahead. Only allowing the more complicated decisions/judgements to come to him and trusting that they themselves would judge correctly the smaller things. This was bigger than Moses. This required work and effort from all.

What I myself have learned from this chapter in Exodus is to not take on too much for myself than what I can bare. I being a mother of four sons, a wife to my husband for 17 years, a sister and daughter to two senior and ailing parents tend to take on a lot. Only because I like for things to be a certain way or because I may want things done a certain way I will tend to just do it myself. My grandfather had hand in raising me like that as to obtain my independence as I grew into adult. He instilled in me the “If you want something done and done right then you

better do it yourself”, or the “Don’t tend to rely/depend on people all of the time because they will disappoint you”.

A lot of times when it comes to things needing to get done or being done in a timely manner people always tend to come rely on me because I am known to be the one to “Get things done!”. Not in a forceful way but in a more reassuring way and sometimes with ease because it is all in how you approach the situation and handle it.

In applying this to my day to day life now I have learned to take a step back and designate people for certain things, just watch and see how it flows and if need be ill jump in to help reinforce or encourage or just to help them regain their focus. I myself because of this have become more calm and relaxed with better days ahead, less stress and anxiety and have began to fill myself more with prayer and meditation. It allows me to be more focused, more centered and aligned with what God wants for me and from me on a daily basis.

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### **REFERENCES**

Exodus 18 : NKJV: [Exodus 18 KJV - When Jethro, the priest of Midian, - Bible Gateway](#)

Mark 8:36: [Mark 8:36 KJV - For what shall it profit a man, if he - Bible Gateway](#)