

Calvin Wilson

Professor David Emanuel

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Assignment 1

Exodus, is the book of new beginnings, in Exodus one can see how God transitions his people, the Israelites, out of Egypt into Canaan, the land in which He had promised them. Moses, a prophet chosen by God to lead the Israelites into this promised land, was tasked with overseeing all of the Israelites. One can not imagine the stress, Moses was under as he led the Israelites through the wilderness. The Israelites were not unaware of what God did and what He could do, yet they murmured and complained. Their frustration was directed at Moses because he was the one who took them out of Egypt, often times they said things like "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death" (Exodus 16:3; NIV). Moses's response to their complaining was "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against Him. Who am I, that you should grumble against me?" You will know that it was the LORD when He gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who am I? You are not grumbling against me, but against the LORD." (Exodus 16:6-8; NIV). From Moses's response, one can see that he has had it with all the complaining. At this point in the exodus of Egypt, one would expect the Israelites to show some more gratitude towards Moses, but it seems like they were comfortable as slaves in Egypt. Four Hundred Years of captivity made the Israelites bitter to the point they couldn't enjoy their freedom. They were delivered out of Egypt physically but mentally they remained slaves. In Egypt the Israelites knew when their next meal was coming, they were not unsure about their situation, but being in the wilderness for the first time they were uncertain about their security. They didn't know when their next meal was coming nor did they know when they were going to arrive in the land God promised them. Exodus 18 is the first time structure is introduced to the Israelite community. When introduced to

Jethro, Moses's father-in-law, and a priest of Midian, unlike the complaining murmurs of Israelites, Jethro is seen giving honor to God because he knows that it was only God who could've delivered the Israelites. Jethro sees the condition of the Israelite community and asks Moses why he allows himself to be burdened with everyone else's problem, and he responds that it is his responsibility to inquire of God on their behalf. Jethro is convinced that if Moses continues to do this he would exhaust himself and advises him to assign cabinet positions. The cabinet members would be just as responsible for the Israelites as Moses, but now responsibility would now be shared amongst other people. Moses listens to Jethro's advice and decides to appoint cabinet members over the people, and his burden was greatly reduced.

Jethro is a man of faith, this is shown in the way he blessed God. He could've joined the Israelites as they complained and murmured but instead he gave thanks and helped Moses establish a healthier community within the Israelites by reducing Moses's responsibilities. Moses went wrong when he decided not to appoint leaders who would help him manage the people. Realizing that many people would only cause Moses to exhaust himself, and make him irritable. This was seen in an earlier chapter when Moses struck the rock when the Lord commanded him to speak to the rock. This act of disobedience caused him to miss out on the promised land, and the people's complaining causes Moses to lose his temper. The Bible is used for our edification, and the stories in the Bible are given to us for our learning, this particular story teaches us to manage our responsibilities. God has called us all to something whether it be school, ministry, or teaching and we all must learn how to be good stewards in our respective callings. We must learn how to live life structured and organized so that we lose our composure.