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Writing Assignment #1, Exodus 18

Exodus 18 narrates when Moses, after being freed from Egypt with the Israeli people, sent his wife and his two sons to his father-in-law Jethro. Jethro went back with them to the place where Moses was (the wilderness). When Jethro, his daughter and his two grandchildren get back to the camp, Moses greet his father-in-law Jethro, and narrated to him all what had happened. Moses said how God has freed them from the Egyptians and all that God had done to the Egyptians in order to delivered them from Egypt. After Moses narrated all of that, Jethro made a burnt and offered sacrifices to God for all he has done for the Israelite people. Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat the bread with Jethro. Jethro said "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods: for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, he was above them". The next day Jethro saw that Moses sat to attend all the people of Israel who came to him to inquire about God and to present him any issue of disagreement they have. He sat among them to judge them, from morning to evening. Jethro talked to him and let him know that what he was doing was not good, that he and the people who accompanied him will get tired out. Jethro advices Moses to choose people that were Godfearers and truthful men to help him and make them rulers of thousand, hundreds, fifties and tens. To teach them the statutes of the law and teach them how to proceed. So, they could help the people to solve the problems, and just bring to him the most difficult cases. That way it will be less work for him because the men he chooses will help him with the burden. Moses listened to his father-in-law's advice and did how he say. Then Jethro went back to his land.

What can I learn from Jethro's character?

I can say that Jethro was a servant of God (Exodus 18:1) because he was a priest. He was also a believer and grateful (Exodus 18:10) because he prayed and blessed God for what he has done for Israel. Jethro offered sacrifices to God as a thanksgiving to God. Jethro was also a wisdom person and a person of order, because after seeing how Moses dealt with the people's problems, he suggested him to change that way of dealing with them and get organized teaching and assigning responsibilities to others. Moses was taking himself all of the work with the people of Israel. That was too much work for him alone. Moses and his helpers will get tired out soon. Moses could get sick out of too much work.

What can I learn from this chapter is that we need order in our life. We also need to count on others to help us with our problems and work. Reading this chapter make me think about how since that time to the actuality the church still follow that advice. (I grew up in a Catholic family and now I am raising my kids in the same faith) as a Catholic Christian one thing that I admire of the church is how organized is. Because since I am here in this country, I have lived in 3 different towns so I had attended to 3 or 4 different Parishes, and anywhere I go I can feel the

same. I feel like I am in the Parish I used to go in my home country. I think this organizational advice can also be applied in any area of our lives. In our family circle, our place of work, our church, our school and our community. In our family circle we can organize and delegate tasks to each member of the family to function better. If we do so, nobody will get tired out, all will feel included and proud of what they have done. For example, this morning when I was going to prepare breakfast, that I usually prepare by myself, I asked my husband and my two kids to help me. Everyone prepared something (my daughter squeezed the juice from the oranges, my husband prepared the coffee, my son prepared the guacamole and I prepared the sandwiches), so when we sit to eat, I thanked all of them and they thanked me and each other too. I can say that all of us enjoyed better our breakfast because it was the result of everyone's effort and also each of us can feel proud of what we did and I can say that the breakfast did taste better too.

I think I can and I will try as possible to applied this organizational advice and principle to every area of my life. In my family, my work, school (when doing group assignments), at church (when being a volunteer member of a pastoral group) and if possible, in my neighborhood. I also will pray God to find out how to applied better this advice in my life.