

THE EVENTS IN EXODUS CHAPTER 18

INTRODUCTION

The desert wandering of the Israelites remains a typical encounter of an ungrateful man with his ever-merciful and grateful father and God. In the desert, the Israelites were tested. Through their weaknesses, failure, and trials. They perceived the strength, faithfulness, and goodness of God. They were also punished, fortified for their long journey towards a promised land. It was recorded that in the desert they started learning and practicing how to apply the law to their daily lives through the guidelines given to them by Moses.

Summary of Exodus Chapter 18.

The major Characters in this chapter, were mainly Moses' father-in-law named Jethro who was a priest at the time of this encounter, Moses himself, and the people.

Moses had to choose worthy and capable men who could be judged fit to carry on the same sensitive responsibilities and teach them the law as well as allow them to serve arbitrators over the people without Moses' interference. In this way, Moses himself need not preside over all the cases and challenges of the people but through Jethro's advice. They can preside over minor cases while referring the major cases to Moses.

Jethro played a role of a good counselor, by advising Moses on administrative methodology. Jethro came into the scene as an instrument that gave insight for a better administration. Jethro's patience, kind-hearted, and ability to understand one's plight even during the periods Moses was away, leaving his wife and children behind; made him a good father-in-law. Jethro felt the burden on Moses, he was moved with the passion to advise or counsel Moses on how to handle the situation. First, he asked him why Moses could attend to a large number of people alone from the rising of the Sun to its setting. Jethro called him to order he advised Moses on the way that may be suitable to handle the people's case. Moses heeds the advice which eventually helped him to run the affairs of the people.

DESCRIBE WHAT MOSES WAS DOING WRONG AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECT IT COULD HAVE HAD ON HIM.

Moses was seen doing the job which would have been appointed to many people alone.

Moses lacked the sense of division of labor, which could have led him to ill health.

Moses thought that without him the people of God cannot get the right judgment. It is important here to give others the opportunity to do things their way which can call for comparison for a better result. He felt, without him, nothing can be done right. THE EFFECTS IT HAS HAD ON HIM. Doing the job alone could lead to physical defects such as headaches, body pain, dizziness, and tiredness. If this load of doing the job alone dawns on him, this could further delay the work that needs to be done.

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM THIS CHAPTER THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR LIFE?

Those who wish to participate in the pastoral assignment must acquire some administrative acumen and a radical change of conduct. From those who wished to participate in the reign of God, Jesus demanded repentance, a change of mind, turning away from his former path recognized as the wrong path to a better path. The Greek word "metanoia" conveys a Hebrew and Aramaic concept that goes beyond the scope of the Greek meaning "change of mind". To the Semitic mind, it suggested a man turning away from his former path, now recognized as wrong, and striking out in a completely different direction. It means a radical change of conduct. A pastoral commitment requires a donation of oneself without reserve. It makes me understand that nobody has a monopoly on knowledge. No knowledge should be downplayed, and everybody is important. Also, we need each other to survive. But this story of Jethro in Exodus 18 tells us not only what we ought to look back on; but also what we ought to focus on. Jethro made us know that God's gospel is all about He who is greater than Moses.

CONCLUSION

Jethro being a kind-hearted father-in-law brings Moses' wife and children back to him (1-6) Jethro shows strong faith in God and offers a sacrifice to Him (7-12) Moses took all his time to judge the people of God (13-16). Jethro advises Moses to employ able reasonable men to share the load of settling disputes (17-23). Moses took Jethro's advice and bade him farewell (24-27) Moses followed Jethro's advice very strictly without leaving any stone unturned, as this helped him to relinquish responsibility to others to make the workload lighter for him.

Work Cited

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