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Old Testament

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Exodus 18 Assignment

This is about how Jethro visits Moses in Exodus 18. Moses is a regular man with a wife, with sons named Gershom and Eliezer. Jethro is the father-in-law to Moses and also the priest of Midian. Moses went to visit Jethro because Jethro had his wife and kids, and he showed respect. At the beginning of this trip, Moses told Jethro about good things the Lord did which impressed him. This led Jethro to have a meal with the older people of Israel. Moses starts to give people instructions from God but Jethro believes this isn't good for anyone, it's too much. Jethro advised Moses, telling him to slow down and get some help for what he intends to do and to do it to help the people around him. Moses listened to what Jethro told him and he turned out with good outcomes, after that Jethro went home.

When reading this chapter I feel I can learn a lot from Jethro's character. From the beginning, it seems he cares a lot about his family. Jethro is a good listener when someone is talking to him. He gives off good spirits and believes in what Moses says to him throughout the reading. When he's listening he doesn't seem to judge but gives advice to help with what's going on. When he tells Moses "What you are doing is not good. 18 You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone." (Paragraph 18) This shows him having respect for what Moses is trying to do but also tells him what's wrong and right. Jethro gives Moses advice to help him improve what he's trying to do with the people of Israel.

According to Exodus 18 what Moses was doing wrong was serving as a judge for the people. Which is not wrong of him, but it was the workload of having to hear out all these people that caused a toll on not just his body, but his mind as well. For him serving alone as a judge for people till morning till evening, would take a toll on anyone. Moses was just doing what came to his head and not thinking through what he really wanted to do. As well as Moses was wrong for not listening to his father-in-law when he commended Moses for serving alone as a judge for so many people, and the hours would cause a strain on one's mind and body. Moses' father-in-law commended him to listen to his advice and to teach the people God's decrees and instructions, and to show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave under the 10 Commandments, God's law, and etc. Moses was to serve as a guide, and have him only serve as a judge for those in deep need of guidance and seeking help from the Lord. His father-in-law advised him to have the people serve as judges at all times and to handle all the simple cases so that they are able to decide and handle their own means. That being said, he did say to only serve as a judge for all the difficult cases brought upon him. Expressing that this way would make his road much lighter because they would be able to share it with you.

What I learned from this is to listen to those who are seeking out to help you and advising you so that you do not have to struggle. In which case, Moses' father-in-law saw him struggling to serve as a judge and commended him to follow his advice and so help him God, not only would it benefit him, but as well as his people and the followers of God. I learned that at first it may not seem like we want help, but we must be able and willing to accept it, especially when people are seeking the best out for you. Although it is a very hard concept for me personally due to the fact that I feel that I am very independent, I must be willing to have others help and accept advice from others, especially when it's in my best interest.