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Exodus 18: Delegation

Jethro was the medianite Priest and the Father-in-law of Moses. He was a great leader and man of wisdom. He was family oriented and paid attention to details. Exodus chapter eighteen verse thirteen says it came about the next day that the people stood about Moses from morning until the evening when Moses was settling and judging disputes amongst the people of Israel. His father-in-law Jethro had just shown up for a visit and watched him at work asking what he was doing.

Moses then explained to him what he was doing and he said surely this will wear out both yourself and these people for the task is too heavy for you alone. You're going to get exhausted and the people are going to get frustrated having to wait for you. It takes so long to get everything done if you're taking on all these tasks by yourself.

In verse twenty two Jethro advised Moses to identify and train certain men and place them in charge so that they could settle most of the disputes. The only ones that should come to Moses should be the more severe cases that need his discretion. In verse twenty three Jethro said if you do this thing that God so commands you to do and what I'm suggesting you do then you will be able to endure it. You won't burnout but last until the end and these people will go to their places

in peace because the disputes were settled. When someone doesn't know how to delegate they clog the system and things come to a standstill. In any business or department there has to be a delegation of power and authority. However what I learn from the text is that the right people should be selected and trained before the delegation. This is so that they know the kind of decisions you want them to make as a leader and that's a big part of leadership.

Being that Jethro was family oriented I learn that in raising our kids we also need to delegate certain responsibilities and authority to them so they know how to function in life and ultimately their God given purposes. Children at different levels and stages can be equipped by being given responsibilities both at home and at school to prepare them for the future. Jethro as a family man and Father is depicting the importance of Fatherhood in every household or family. Moses may as well be a man and leader of his own family but the leadership of his father-in-law proves to be of great support.

As a Worship Leader and Music Director I'm learning the significance of becoming more effective by delegating . It seems to be wiser to create a system that does not only depend on me as a leader so as to lighten the load. I also admire the teachable character that Moses had even after being used so mightily by God in the exodus of the Israelites. A challenge that we have as young leaders is that when God has used us we begin to think we are above authority and know it all.

Moses could have also said he will consider the advice but still go to God for himself and as how he should do the task. This is another way we reject counsel from elders by saying we can go to

God for ourselves and hear what He has to say. It is true that we indeed have direct access to the Father however the wisdom He has bestowed upon Mentors and those who have gone before us is valid. Eldership and Mentorship are still a valid and necessary part of every leader.

Moses could have had burnout and even have been ineffective as a leader in judging the people had he not followed the instructions at hand. The people may have been frustrated and unsatisfied which would have caused multiple issues amongst them. It is indeed true that God communicates in different ways to us and one way should not be used as a yardstick or only way. He previously spoke to Moses through a burning bush and now we see Him using someone to share wisdom for him to be effective in his assignment.

Works Cited: *Cultural Background Study Bible* : The Study Bible. New York: Zondervan