

Exodus chapter 18 was during the time of Moses in the Old Testament. It begins with introducing Moses' father-in-law and his name was Jethro. We immediately know he is a priest and a trusted one because in verse 2 we see Moses sending his family away to him for a while. Soon after they all return to Moses and we now learn more about Jethro; we learn that he is also respected because Moses bows before him and kisses him. So we know that Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, is a trusted and respected Midian priest and has now come to visit Moses. Moses and Jethro talk for a while and Moses shares with him all that God has done; they praise God and know he is the greatest among all the gods. Later on, we see Moses sit in the judge's seat and from morning until evening take disputes from among the people. As this is happening, Jethro takes notice and gives Moses advice on how to delegate some of this role. Moses ends up taking his advice and the people were satisfied. Jethro then leaves back to his own country.

What we can see in Jethro's character from what he does throughout this chapter in helping Moses becomes very apparent. In the beginning, we learn some of his character right off from the start by seeing he can be trusted by his family and then he visits and is respected by Moses. We also see that he is a man that would praise God and look for reasons to do so. The author writes, "Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the Lord had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians." Exodus 18:9.

Then after we learn about Jethro's character we see that he gives Moses advice while Moses is helping settle disputes amongst God's people. Jethro watches Moses perform his duties and sees that this is very draining on him because he does this everyday. So he speaks with Moses and tells him to delegate the task to leaders through God's people and they will help settle disputes and the leaders when they have trouble can bring it to you to help sort those ones out. So that way all people would be satisfied. Moses takes this advice and finds himself to be a lot more content than he was before because before it had just been him all alone.

I think what Moses was doing wrong was he was trying to do it all himself all day long everyday. I think eventually it would have been very easy for Moses not to be able to settle disputes effectively anymore because he would be so tired and he would no longer be able to fulfill his role that God had placed him in, which was to, at that time, be somewhat of a bridge between God and his chosen people and lead them wherever God sent them.

From this chapter I learned that even some of the most called men cannot do everything on their own and they need help from the community to make everything run smoothly. When it had just been Moses judging all day long it was hard work for Moses but also took a lot of waiting on the people's parts to actually be heard by him. So I learned that we shouldn't do everything on our own and we should ask for help and receive help when we need it, so that we would always have the energy and focus to work on what we are supposed to work on.

Exodus 18 wasn't a passage I had ever focused on and it was interesting to see how much revelation there was in that one passage about leadership and how asking for help isn't a bad thing all the time. It was cool to see Jethro's role in Moses' life because I now think that he had a lot more influence than I originally thought. Overall this chapter in Exodus was very interesting and helped me grasp ideas I didn't really fully see yet.