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Old Testament Literature

Writing Assignment One

Jethro came to Moses after triumphantly coming out of Egypt with the children of Israel. Moses shared with his father-in-law not just the victory, but also the hardship they had to go through as they were in the process. Moses' testimony to Jethro caused him to realize and acknowledge that now he knows the Lord is greater than all gods. He went on to say that the very thing in which the Egyptians believed they were the best had its limits because God was above them. After Jethro heard of all that the Lord had done and how He victoriously carried them out. Jethro straight away offered a burn sacrifice to God. Aaron and all the elders of Israel joined to honor God.

The following day, Moses sat to judge the people and all the people stood before him from morning to evening as he did this. When Moses's father-in-law saw this, he questioned Moses about what he was doing. Moses told him that the people come to him to enquire about God. He explained to him that when people had difficulties they came to him, and he judged them and informed them of what is inscribed of God and His law.

When Jethro heard Moses' explanation, he straight away advised him that he was going about doing this the wrong way. He told him that what he was doing would both weary him and the people. Jethro gave Moses counsel on how to handle this. He instructed him to teach the people to stand before God on their behalf, but also teach them, the statutes, and the laws, and show them the way to walk and the work they must do. He also told him to get capable men,

possessing qualities such as the fear of God, they must be truthful and also should hate covetousness. Once these men were picked out, they were then set above the people. Some would rule over thousands, others over hundreds, and others over tens. The men would judge the small things, and Moses the bigger things. They would lift the weight off Moses' shoulder. After all, this took place, Moses allowed his father-in-law to go back home.

Jethro gave Moses sound advice. It was filled with strategy and wisdom. The instructions Jethro gave also help to teach Moses how to delegate. It was good counsel that I believe was coming from the heart of God. Even though the Lord is our strength, our human abilities have limits, and it's not encouraged for us to do anything in excess. This was exactly what Moses was doing, and no doubt it would have a negative impact on him over time. Moses was doing the wrong thing by trying to judge all these people by himself. It would have certainly taken a toll on him physically, emotionally, mentally, and even spiritually.

The beauty of God is the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that he gives is not limited to one man or one set of people. Therefore, Moses was able to take from among the people the men who naturally had the ability or could be trained to assist him in judging. This just meant he would not have to put all this strain on himself and the people as they waited endlessly to be seen and spoken to.

There are also several lessons to learn from the advice Jethro gave. As leaders, we have to learn to train others, so that the knowledge, we have will not stay with us but reach more people. Also, keep in mind that as you train others you are also preparing a successor. This chapter teaches us to seek the Lord for wisdom as we carry out his work and even the general daily aspects of our lives. As the Lord leads, as he led Jethro and then, in turn, Moses, He will do the same for us and the outcomes will be more fulfilling, rewarding, and less burdensome.

In conclusion, I thank God for His sent son. Jesus came and died and rent that veil of division. The same grace that is extended to me is extended to you. It is not a case that you are more blessed to go before God and I can't go, it's not a case that I have to wait on a priest to speak to the Lord for me, but I can for myself. The system that they had in Exodus 18 is no more because I can now go directly to our heavenly Father.