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Exodus 18

Every passage in the Bible and every book in the Old Testament allows people to see, read and understand God's message through different periods, situations, and stories. We can see how the book of Genesis has different outlines from the book of Exodus, but they share the same message, God's need to save humanity from its sins. For this week's readings, we discovered the story of Moses and how he saved the people of Israel through the spirit of God. In Exodus 18, we read about Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, and how he was able to help Moses strengthen his techniques regarding how he deals with people's difficulties.

As I mentioned above, the book of Exodus highlights the story of Moses and how he saved the people of Israel from the strong grip of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. We meet his father-in-law Jethro throughout the reading in Exodus 18. This chapter gives us an overview of how Jethro regained contact with Moses after taking care of Moses' wife Zipporah, and his two sons, Gershom and Eliezer. He learned how his son-in-law had helped Israel's people when they were trapped in slavery by the king of Egypt, Pharaoh. Then Jethro made some sacrifices to show God how grateful his people were for their salvation. And finally, by observing how Moses worked

with the Israelites, he gave Moses advice to take it easy with all he had already done for those people.

In this chapter, they introduce Jethro as Moses' father-in-law, but also as "the priest of Midian" Exod 18:1. He is known as the father of Zipporah, Moses' wife, who welcomed her and her sons when Moses sent them away from Egypt. As a priest, he was happy to hear of everything God had done to save his people from slavery, and he acted as an advisor to Moses when he realized all the hard work Moses put himself into to help the Israelites. They also present him as the one who "brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God" Exod 18:12 to show his gratitude.

From the readings we did in the Bible, we observe that Moses was not confident when God asked him to be his voice in his plan to save Israel's people. So it should not be surprising that Moses overworked himself to accomplish what God had planned for his people. It seems like he made it his mission to bring all the concerns of the Israelites to God, simple or complex, in exchange for finding peace for those people. He didn't seek help from others, and if he did not listen to his father-in-law, that would have backfired on him if Jethro didn't intervene because people would want to have control over what was happening with God, even if it means conspire behind Moses' back. Jethro understood that his son-in-law needed a reminder that not everything needs to be solved by God. So he suggested Moses find at least two people trustworthy to spread God's message and that they would help him by talking with the Israelites without him having to do all the work, that is to say, solving the simple problems which the people he employed could solve.

This chapter, explained above, shows how a father-in-law can help his son-in-law find a better solution to something that matters to them. When we want to help a family member or someone we know who wants some moral comfort, we should not hesitate to give it to them because God wants us closer to our surrender. This chapter teaches me how to be compassionate, appreciate people's hard work when we know they struggled to accomplish it, and that family can be the reason we are still sane. God wants to form a big family with no hard-hearted people like Pharaoh and his people or people with sins because he does not want to destroy the world again. Humanity is the greatest thing he had created on earth because we are in his image, so he finds trustworthy people like Moses to help him reinstall what he had done before, which is perfection.