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Old Testament/ BIB102

Writing Assignment 1

Jethro the priest of Midian, Moses's father-in-law, heard about the great testimony about what God has done to Moses and his people of Israel. Jethro goes to Moses to hear more about what happened. Jethro gives a burnt offering to God and they rejoice. The next day, Moses went out to judge people, with all of their problems, big or small. He spent almost the whole day judging his people according to their difficulties. Jethro gives Moses advice on what to do. Jethro counsels Moses, saying that what he is doing now is not good and it will leave him and his people tired. Jethro provides the next steps and the outcome of Moses's situation. Moses listens and did what he said.

I can learn that Jethro is wise, well-spoken, and assertive. Jethro is wise because he understood what Moses did not. Jethro was able to tell what was good versus not good. He was also able to tell how much a man can or should carry. Chapter 18 verses 17 - 23, shows those three characteristics. Jethro was wise with knowing to ask about this situation. Not only did he show his assertiveness by directly saying what was bad and how it was bad, but he also gave clear instructions on how to handle this situation. In the end, more glory was given to God. Jethro did not point any fingers and did not draw any attention to himself or to Moses. Jethro was only concerned with Moses's wellbeing and the well-being of the people. We can see that this outcome will produce fruitful results.

First, Jethro explains why this was not good. He says that both he and his people will get tired because this task is too overwhelming. Jethro warns Moses that this task is too big for him and that it is impossible to do this on his own. Next, Jethro counsels him. He gives him the direction and where to go, and why this was needed and important. Moses was able to see the vision of Jethro before it was in action.

The possible effects it could have on Moses was for Moses to become prideful, weary, and burnt out. Moses could have become prideful, thinking that he can handle his people's problems and not God. Pride can also come with feeling too much of yourself, and that nothing can be done without you to control it. Moses could have become weary. He was not able to determine the long term effect of this situation. When you carry more than you can bear, you are not preparing yourself for the best outcome. Moses could also have been burnt out. Being burnt out will lead you to doubt yourself, doubt God, and prematurely quit. All of these possible effects not only affect him but the people of Israel as well.

Give God your difficulties. God can handle all of your problems, no matter your size or weight. Nothing is too much for God. People want to have control of everything in their lives, but this is not wise. Sometimes we bite off more than we can chew. To be able to complete God's tasks for your life, you have to surrender them to Him first. We may think we know what is best, but if it leaves us feeling weary and burnt out, that is a sign that something is wrong. Our solutions will show that it is good when God gets glory from it. Sometimes if you know what is best for someone else, and you see that what they're doing is not good, one of the best things you can do is simply ask them questions. Asking questions in a way that is not mean or rude to better understand the situation before giving marching orders. The advice he gives Moses is proactive. We can learn with Jethro how to handle and approach situations. Also, do not be embarrassed or angry if someone comes to you with advice on how to handle things. That person could be used by God at the moment to teach and counsel us. It is not about us, anyway. God used Jethro to counsel Moses. Jethro went to where Moses was, listened to his stories, and then gave him advice.