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Exodus 18 Analysis

In the 18th chapter of the book of Exodus, Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, visits Moses in the desert. Jethro watches Moses trying to resolve people's conflicts and notices that Moses is overwhelmed and exhausted. Jethro advises Moses to name some trusted leaders and judges to help him in his task of ruling the people. In this way, Moses could focus on the most important tasks and let the judges solve everyday problems. Moses followed Jethro's advice, and the people were relieved to see that they had someone else to turn to for help.

After giving his advice, Jethro offered a sacrifice to God and returned to his land. This episode shows how God provides help and guidance through the people in our lives, and also highlights the importance of listening and following wise advice.

From the account in Exodus 18, several characteristics of Jethro's character can be deduced:

First is Wisdom. Jethro demonstrates wisdom in observing the situation and advising Moses on how to better lead the people. He recognizes that Moses is overwhelmed and suggests a solution that would lighten his burden and improve the functioning of the community.

On the other hand, generosity. Jethro offers a sacrifice to God, showing his devotion and generosity towards his faith. In third place, compassion. Jethro is concerned about the well-being of Moses and the people, and is motivated to help ease their struggles.

In fourth place respect. Jethro approaches Moses with respect and deference, demonstrating his honor for Moses as a leader and a man of God. Another one is humility. Jethro returns to his own land after offering his advice, showing that he does not seek to interfere in the affairs of others and is humble in his actions.

Overall, Jethro is portrayed as a wise, generous, compassionate, respectful, and humble person.

Jethro not only gives one advice to Moses, but we can find two main ones:

The first one was to appoint judges. Jethro observes that Moses is trying to settle disputes among the people single-handedly, and is becoming overwhelmed and exhausted. He advises Moses to appoint capable men as judges to help him in this task. This would allow Moses to focus on the more important matters and delegate the routine tasks to the judges.

And the second one was to select wise men. Jethro suggests that Moses choose men who are "God-fearing, trustworthy, and hated by no one" to serve as judges. This ensures that the people would have access to fair and just leaders.

Overall, Jethro's advice is meant to help Moses lead the people more effectively and efficiently, while also ensuring that they are guided by God's laws and principles.

What Moses was doing wrong and the effects it could have on him is that Moses was trying to settle disputes among the people on his own and becoming exhausted. This could have led to burnout, decreased effectiveness, decreased morale, and decreased respect for his leadership. Jethro advised Moses to appoint judges to help with settling disputes and reduce his workload.

Really all I can learn from Exodus 18, is all the advice that is given between characters. Although they are not actions that I have done, you can always learn from the actions of the rest and applying these tips to my life can avoid many problems that at some point in life everyone will have.

Bibliography:

“Exodus 18:17-22”. *The Holy Bible: New international Version*. Zondervan, 2011.