

Alexandra Fitzpatrick

Dr. Emanuel

Old Testament Literature OA

19 March 2023

Written Assignment #1 Exodus 18

Through reading the Bible we are able to learn lessons that we can apply to our life. This story here is a great example of how sometimes we have to ask for help and not do everything alone; we are better together. We as Christians are called to not do this walk alone and to lean on one another, this story was a reminder to me just of that.

In Exodus 18 the chapter is titled "*Jethro's Visit*" Jethro travels to go and see Moses and brings along his wife and two sons. Moses is recounting and rejoicing to Jethro about what the Lord did in order to help the people of Israel from the rule under Pharaoh. During Jethro's stay he was able to see Moses be a judge for the people regarding their disputes, and was able to give some advice to better help him and the people out.

In the text we learn that Jethro deeply cares about Moses and he pays attention to detail. He is a person that wants to honor the Lord and sees when his people are in need. When he went to visit Moses he heard how he was doing and the miraculous way God used him to help the Israelites out of Egypt. He observed Moses' work as being a judge for the people, and he had some concerns, and decided to give him advice on how to better help. What we can learn from Jethro's character is he cares about the well-being of others. He stepped in and told Moses his concerns about how he was taking on more than he could handle while acting as a judge for the people. Jethro could have easily judged Moses instead he spoke to him in a loving and

compassionate way. This is something that we can all learn from him and analyze his approach to situations and the art of delivery of a suggestion. There are times where I see someone doing something that in my mind I know is wrong but you can't always tell people what to do. The right way to help others is in our approach, we can not just reprimand and point out all the things someone is doing wrong because then they won't change their ways. After Jethro gave Moses a suggestion of finding more men to be Judges he took his advice. However if Jethro came in guns blazing to the situation Moses might not have changed his ways and kept on doing what he was doing just to be spiteful. Jethro pointed out to him that he would burn out and get very tired, and how if it was only him the people would have to wait a very long time to be heard.

When Jethro discovered Moses was a judge for the people he gave him some advice. Jethro advised him that he should enlist the help of others in order to work more efficiently to better serve the people. The advice was for him to form something that would resemble a panel with multiple judges to hear the disputes, in order to lighten the load on Moses. As he thought, doing the job solely alone would not allow for all the people to be helped in the right way. Moses would still be a judge, however he would only help with cases that were difficult. Jethro stepping in helped Moses and his well-being as well as the well-being of the people.

In reflection of reading and reviewing this chapter as stated above the story is a good reminder of asking for help. We do not have to do everything and put the weight of the world on our shoulders. Another take away is when speaking to others it is extremely important to work on our approach whenever giving a suggestion about what they are doing.