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Moses' Delegation with Jethro

In Exodus Chapter 18, we read about an important meeting between Moses, who was leading the Israelites out of Egypt, and Jethro, a priest of Midian. Moses was struggling to handle all the responsibilities that came with being a leader, and Jethro realized that he needed to delegate tasks to others. Jethro recommended that Moses choose skilled people to take care of the smaller tasks so that he could concentrate on the more important things.

Jethro was a wise and discerning man who recognized the importance of good leadership. He advised Moses to choose capable men who feared God, were trustworthy, and would not be corrupted by bribes (Exo 18:21). These men would be responsible for handling smaller disputes among the people, which would free Moses up to handle the bigger issues.

Jethro also recommended that Moses restructure the way he handled disputes. Instead of personally hearing every case that arose, he should appoint leaders over groups of 1000s, 100s, 50s, and 10s. These leaders would then handle disputes at their respective levels, only bringing the most difficult cases to Moses for resolution (Exo 18:22).

Jethro reminded Moses that his role as a leader was to represent the people before God. He encouraged Moses to teach the people God's statutes and laws, making sure they understood His will and knew how to live accordingly (Exo 18:20).

Moses was attempting to handle everything on his own, this was his primordial mistake. He was not only putting himself in danger by taking on too much, but he was also failing to care for the needs of the group of people he was in charge of. This presented a significant problem because it might have resulted in erroneous judgment, blunders, or even a potential uprising.

The passage provides us with a wealth of valuable life lessons. To start, delegation is critical when holding a leadership position. Assigning tasks to others frees up time and energy to focus on more significant matters. Pro 11:14 reinforces this idea, suggesting that a lack of advice leads to failure, but an abundance of counselors provides security.

Furthermore, having a support system is essential. Jethro's visit to Moses highlights the importance of having individuals in our lives who can offer guidance and encouragement during tough times. Ecc 4:9-10 NIV states "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

Faith is also crucial. Jethro recognized the significance of God's role in the Hebrews' exodus from Egypt. Pro 3:5-6 encourages us to trust in God and not rely on our understanding. Acknowledging Him in our pursuits will lead us to the right path.

In conclusion, Exodus Chapter 18 teaches us about leadership, delegation, the value of support, and the importance of faith. Jethro's advice reminds us not to try to tackle everything alone and to trust others to help with smaller tasks. His recognition of God's strength reinforces the importance of faith in our lives, providing us with the courage and confidence to face obstacles.

References:

- Varughese, A. (2017). *Discovering the Old Testament, Story and Faith*