

Moses Received Wise Advice

Exodus 18

Faith Portal Church

YOUTH

Unit 11 Lesson 8

Supplemental Texts

Exo 17

Focus Verse

“And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.” – Exodus 18:20

Introduction

Moses was the right leader for the Israelites because he was patient and humble despite the constant irritation from his people. No wonder God chose him to lead His people out of Egypt. It was clear that the Israelites on certain events were unwilling to cooperate with God (Exo 14:10-12; 15:24; 16:2-3; 17:2-3). Though these people were ungrateful, yet God gave them victory over the Amalekites who waged an unprovoked attack against them.

Deeper Look

Moses' Father-In-Law – Exo 18:1-16

Jethro (also known as Reuel - Exo 2:16-18; 3:1), Moses' father-in-law, brought Moses' family to him for a reunion after hearing of the deliverance God had given to Moses and Israel. Clearly, Moses had sent his family back to Midian at some point before they exited Egypt. Moses surely had a cordial relationship with Jethro as depicted in vv. 6-7. Moses related all that God had done to Pharaoh and his people and how God had delivered Israel in her troubles. Jethro rejoiced in Israel's victory and blessed the Lord, acknowledging that the Lord is greater than all other gods. Jethro offered sacrifices to the God of Israel because he embraced Jehovah God, and he was, in turn, embraced by the Israelites. Jethro observed Moses as he executed his duties as the judge and was bothered because Moses was the only one judging the matters of the whole Israel.

Do Not Wear Yourself Out – Exo 18:17-27

Jethro told Moses that if he continued to judge alone, he and his people would be worn out. Moses' strength was used unwisely, and justice was delayed for many of his people. Much to his credit, Moses listened to Jethro's advice to change his approach of judging. He was to pray for his people and teach them (vv. 19-20). Besides, Jethro advised Moses to appoint certain godly men to judge alongside him. Similar admonition was given by Paul to Timothy (2 Tim 2:2). Jethro advised Moses to ensure that God approved the new approach. God taught Moses some lesson through Jethro, and he became more effective. Thus, the new approach benefited everybody.

Questions

1. How did the news of God's deliverance of the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage reach the neighboring nations? What message would that send to the nations?
2. Was there any hesitation in Moses as he shared all the goodness of God to Israel from the beginning to the end with Jethro? Do you find it easy to share your own testimonies? Explain.
3. List four things that Jethro did when Moses told him what God had done for Israel. Why are those things important?
4. What is commendable about Aaron and all the elders of Israel when they came to meet Jethro? What would Jethro come away with after meeting them?
5. Why was Moses unable to see the warning sign that Jethro saw before this time? See Exo 18:14,18. What would have been the danger if Moses and the people who came to him for judgment became worn out?
6. What principles of leadership did Jethro teach Moses? How effective would this new method of judging be compared to the one Moses had been employing? Explain.
7. What quality did you find admirable in Jethro when he gave Moses his advice? Why?

Personal Meditation

I am the leader of God's people, a special nation indeed. I was called and chosen by God to bring His people out of Egyptian bondage. God speaks to me as friend to friend. In fact, He tells me what He intends to do beforehand and has used me immensely for many wonders and signs upon the Egyptians. Did you know that? These kinds of words and many more could have been Moses' responses when his father-in-law Jethro advised him to employ a more effective method of judging Israel. Interestingly, Moses humbly took Jethro's advice and implemented it without delay (Exo 18:24-26). Humility is an excellent virtue to possess; it must be exemplified by every Christian. Humility brings us into the center of God's grace (Prov 3:34; Jas 4:6).

Have you been advised as Moses was? What was it about? And did you take it humbly? Or did you just feel embarrassed? Just as God used Jethro to enlighten Moses, He can use others for you. But you must bring down your pride to learn what God wants you to know. Life is certainly better when God's wisdom is in use. A display of humility is a display of wisdom.

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Exo 18:1-5
Tuesday	Exo 18:6-9
Wednesday	Exo 18:10-13
Thursday	Exo 18:14-18
Friday	Exo 18:19-23
Saturday	Exo 18:24-27



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