

Jethro's Advice was More than Just About Delegation (Ex. 18:13–26)

It was not good (18:17) for Moses to wear himself and the people out by doing all the judging.

The "not good" in Ex. 18:17 is the second such in the Bible. (Cf. Gen. 2:18.) There are many in Proverbs.

I. INSIGHT

- . . Practical Insight: Moses needed help. He was overworked (18:18) and the people had to wait (18:14).
- . . This insight came to Jethro through simple observation (18:14) and practical experience.
- . . Spiritual Insight: Jethro did not leave out God.
 - . . He did not give his advice in 18:14–23 until after the worship (burnt offering etc.) in 18:12.
 - . . He acknowledged that God had to command Moses to choose helpers. (18:23)
 - . . Jethro believed that his advice was from God (18:19).

D. DETAILS

- . . The time detail: "from morning until evening." (18:13, 14)
 - . . This is briefly stated – but repeated in two verses.
- . . Jethro spoke of **three aspects of Moses' duties**.
 - . . **Moses was to continue to pray for the people (18:19) and to teach them (18:20),**
 - . . but he was NOT to do ALL the judging by himself (18:21–22).
- . . Jethro gave details about the helper's qualifications (18:21) and duties (18:22).
 - . . There are similar details on elder and deacon qualifications and duties in the Pastorals.

E. ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM

- . . The energy of Moses was not adequate to judge every case, though he was willing to do so.
 - . . **Because Moses was not lazy,** he was not sensitive to the overwork problem.
 - . . **Because Moses knew God had called him,** he was not sensitive enough to the problem.
- . . Lessening Moses' burden as judge undoubtedly gave him more energy to pray and teach.
 - . . This was like the purpose of appointing the helpers in Acts chapter six. (See Acts 6:2.)

A. ASSURANCE

- . . Jethro' final words in 18:23 are about the need for assurance, via a command from God.
 - . . Apparently God commanded Moses to do as Jethro suggested (between 18:23 and 24).
- . . And apparently the plan worked out well (18:26). Often the assurance come through the results.

application

- . . *After Corvid-19 ends, I want to stay focused on what really needs to be done (praying & teaching).*
- . . *It has been good to have more time that usual to evaluate our work and energy levels.*