

GOOD NEWS – GOOD ADVICE



Exodus 18:1, 5-23, ESV – Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel his people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

⁵ Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God. ⁶ And when he sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her," ⁷ Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent. ⁸ Then Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them in the way, and how the LORD had delivered them. ⁹ And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the LORD had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians.

¹⁰ Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹ Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people." ¹² And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

¹³ The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. ¹⁴ When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" ¹⁵ And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; ¹⁶ when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." ¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. ¹⁹ Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, ²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. ²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²² And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace."

Notes:

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- 2.
- 3.

SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of October 25, 2020
Exodus 18:1-27

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we saw a model for delivering the good news. How does Moses deliver the good news of God's deliverance? How does Jethro respond?

2 Jethro's advice can be summarized as "you can't do ministry alone. It is a team effort." What are you doing in ministry, as part of God's team? If you are not involved in ministry, what will it take for you to get involved?

3 In Exodus 18:23, Jethro explains what will happen if Moses follows his advice. As we read on, we see that Moses does as Jethro says. Moses had a choice to make: to listen to Jethro's advice or not. When have you been faced with a choice to follow good advice or not? How did you respond? What happened as a result? What can we do to help make sure we respond correctly in the future?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Genesis 14:18-20, ESV** – ¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

4 Looking at the passage above, how is Melchizedek’s blessing similar to Jethro’s blessing in Exodus 18?

5 Why is it important to remember what God has done, to acknowledge that He is the one true God, and to give praise and worship to Him in those moments? How have you done this in your own life?

B **1 Corinthians 6:1, 4-8, ESV** – When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?

⁴ So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, ⁶ but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? ⁷ To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? ⁸ But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

Matthew 18:15-20, ESV – ¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

6 According to the passages above, why is it better for believers to work out their disputes among themselves?

7 Although believers are not a nation with appointed judges over us, we do have each other to counsel one another. What can we do, as believers, to make ourselves good counselors for one another? What role does discipleship play in this?

C **Acts 6:1-12, ESV** – Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

8 In the passage above, we see another example of leadership delegating authority within the church. Why is it important for church leadership to delegate authority?

9 At the same time, why is it important for church members to obey church leadership and to accept the authority delegated to them?

TAKING IT HOME

The Exodus account is about God redeeming a people for His own possession from the dominion of sin and death through His deliverer, Moses. God's ultimate act of redemption comes later through His Son, Jesus. In both instances, part of the redemption story is bringing people together under the commands of God, to live in a such a way that honors Him and points others to Him. What is your part in His redemption story? How have you applied His commandments in your life? How have you been a "truth teller" to others? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you and pray for a faith that trust in God for deliverance in all circumstances.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Deuteronomy 4:5, 5:1

1 Chronicles 16:25

2 Chronicles 2:5

Psalms 95:3, 97:9, 135:5

Daniel 4:37