

Exodus 18:13-27 **Jethro's advice to Moses**

13 And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening.

14 So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until 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 difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws."

17 So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. 18 Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. 19 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. 20 And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 22 And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. 23 If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."

24 So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. 25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 26 So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.

27 Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way to his own land. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Even with great leaders like Moses, there are often occasions when good advice is desirable from someone outside the immediate circumstance who can see the greater picture.
- ✧ Jethro, in his advise to Moses, was careful not to attempt to speak for God Himself but qualified his advise by saying, "If you do this thing and Elohiym so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."
- ✧ He also advised Moses to appoint able men from among the people who fear Elohiym in truth and hate covetousness, to share the work of judging in the small matters and reserve the difficult matters for Moses to take to Elohiym.
- ✧ Jethro's advise was on two levels;
 - ◇ One as the representative of God to teach the people the statutes and laws of God and give them instructions as to the work they are to do.
 - ◇ Second to appoint judges to lighten the burden on Moses and ease the stress on the people.

- ✧ The important thing in appointing people to judge others, is to find people who are not doing it for personal gain, and will not be able to be bought for the highest bid, thereby perverting justice, but will judge in righteousness and uncompromised justice.
- ✧ This is also the characteristic of faithful men who lead the Church of Christ. [[1 Peter 5:2](#), [1 Timothy 3:2-3](#) and [8](#), [1 Timothy 6:10](#), [Titus 1:7](#)]
- ✧ Moses heeded the advise of his father in law and appointed able men over tens, fifties, hundreds, and thousands to help as judges of the people.
- ✧ So the appointed judges judged the people in every minor case and they brought the hard cases to Moses.
- ✧ Moses let his father in law depart and he went his way to his own land.