

EXODUS 18; March 9; Moses Counseled by Jethro

ANALYSIS:

1. What are the two phrases the Bible uses to describe Jethro?

2. How did Moses treat his father-in-law when he came to see him?

3. Did Jethro serve and worship the LORD God of Israel? _____ How do you know? _____
4. What wise counsel did Jethro give to Moses?

5. From that time forward, what cases did Moses not judge?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Notice the sweet communion in the LORD that Moses and Jethro enjoyed together. After their initial greetings, Moses told Jethro all that the LORD had done for Israel in delivering them from Egypt and providing for them up to that point. Upon hearing of the LORD'S goodness to Israel, Jethro rejoices and blesses the LORD, acknowledging His greatness and power over the Egyptians. Jethro then offers a burnt offering to the LORD God. The essence of Moses' and Jethro's conversation focused upon the goodness and deliverance of God. The sweetest communion and fellowship between believers is based upon rejoicing in the mercies and goodness of the LORD.

Do you accept wise counsel as willingly as Moses did? Remember that Moses was a great man; the leader of the Children of Israel who numbered more than 2 million people; the man whom the LORD had mightily used in Egypt to bring the plagues upon Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out; the man whom the LORD had appeared to in the burning bush. Notice how he respond when Jethro, his father in law, told him he was all wrong in how he was judging the Israelites? He humbly "hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said" (v 24). May we this day be willing to set aside our pride and eagerly listen to and obey the wise counsel and correction the LORD brings our way from the word of God, the man of God, or caring brethren.

HELP:

1. The priest of Midian and Moses' father in law (v 1).
2. Moses treated him with great respect and reverence (v 7 "did obeisance, kissed him, asked of his welfare, brought him into his tent").
3. Jethro did serve and worship the LORD. He rejoiced in what the LORD had done for Israel; he blessed the LORD; he acknowledged the LORD'S greatness; and he sacrificed to the LORD in the presence of Moses and Aaron (vs 9-12).
4. That Moses should only judge the difficult cases and leave the smaller matters for other capable men who feared the LORD and hated covetousness (vs 19-26).
5. From that point on, Moses did not judge the small cases (v 26).