

TOO MUCH WORK FOR ONE

Exodus 18

When Jethro, who was the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that the Lord had done for Moses and the people of Israel, he brought Zipporah, the wife of Moses, and his sons to meet him. The eldest son of Moses was named Gershom, for Moses said, "I have been an alien in a strange land. The second son of Moses was named Eliezer by Moses because, he said, "The God of my father has been my help and has delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh". In those days children were given names that were related to the circumstances of their birth or spoke of character. Zipporah and their sons had been staying in the land of Midian with her family, while Moses was in Egypt. Now it was time for their family to be reunited again.

Moses was very happy to see his family and his father-in-law. He bowed to Jethro and gave him a kiss. Then each man asked the other how they were.

Moses told Jethro his father-in-law all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for the sake of Israel's freedom. He also told Jethro of the problems that they had had along the way.

Then Jethro rejoiced because of all the goodness that the Lord had done to Israel, and because of their great deliverance from the Egyptians. Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hands of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods, for none of them could stand against the Lord." Jethro then took a burnt offering and made sacrifice to the Lord along with all the elders of Israel.

The next morning, Moses sat down and the people came to him with all their problems. Jethro said, "What are you doing Moses? Why are you doing all this work by yourself. The people stand by you from morning until evening. If you continue in this way, you will surely be worn out, along with all the people. This job is too much for you, you need to have some help! Listen, and I will give you counsel, and God will be with you. This is what you should do: You will be God's spokesman to the people, and you will bring their needs to the Lord. You shall teach them the laws and guidelines of God, and show them how to live godly lives. Also, you shall choose out of the people able men; men that fear God, men who are truthful, and men that hate covetousness. These men you shall appoint to be rulers over thousands, and rulers over hundreds, and rulers over fifties, and rulers over tens. They will judge the people in every situation, except in the case of very great problems. The great problems they will bring to you. But every small matter they will judge. In this way it will be easier for you, because these men will bear the burden of caring for the people with you. If you will do this thing, and God commands you to do it, then you will be able to endure, and you and your people will arrive at the land of promise in peace.

Moses listened to the wise counsel of Jethro, and did all that he said. He appointed godly men to rule over the people. Then the people brought all their problems to the leaders, who judged them and gave them counsel, but the difficult problems they brought to Moses for his judgment.

After this Jethro returned again to his home land.

How good of the Lord to send Moses the help that he needed at just the right time. Moses must have surely been exhausted by listening to the people's troubles and giving them judgment from morning to night every single day. The Lord always knows our needs even before we even think to ask for help. We too need to realize that sometimes we will need help with the work that the Lord gives us, but we need to listen for his guidance and counsel so that we will do his work in the right way. He will never fail to give us the help we need if we are willing to obey his voice, and do his work his way.

LEARN: Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.

Exodus 18:11



Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods:
for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.

Exodus 18:11

Water color
The
picture



