

Out of Bondage onto Promise

Exodus 18:1-27

- The enemy often attacks God's people after they've experienced special blessings, case in point last week after God told Moses to strike the Rock and it brought forth water, afterward the Amalekites attacked Israel suddenly from behind at the weakest place in the camp. We've seen this throughout scripture as when Elijah defeated the four hundred false prophets of Baal then Jezebel placed a bounty on his life causing him to become discouraged and tempted to quit.
- Also in Luke 9 after coming down from their mountain top experience of seeing Jesus in His glorified state talking with Moses and Elijah, they're confronted by a father whose demon possessed little boy the Disciples can't seem to help. This caused Jesus to sigh and say "Oh faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you"? The blessing in all of this is God uses these attacks to keep us from trusting the gifts instead of the Giver.

V1-27

- **V1-5** something very interesting is revealed here that we were previously unaware of which is at some point Moses was separated from his wife and two sons. Some believe Moses back to Midian before God declared war in Egypt then after the Exodus he sent word to Jethro to bring his family back to him, but I don't believe that as Moses certainly would want his family to witness The Lord's victory over Egypt and be a part of Israel's great deliverance.
- Also what kind of leader would want his family comfortable back in Midian while the people were suffering in Egypt. Others think they were with him in Egypt and after the victory Moses sent Zipporah and their two sons back to Midian to give the good news to her family. I don't believe that either because Jethro like all the other people in the surrounding region would have all heard about the great deeds God did through Moses without a messenger giving their personal account, so if you don't accept these two explanations then when the separation?
- **Ex 4:19-26** Moses is told to go from Midian to Egypt and deliver the Israelites, but on the way the Lord threatens to kill him because he hadn't circumcised his son as was the custom of all Jews. This showed that Moses had stopped believing in all that his mother had taught him about The Jews being God's chosen people, and also the customs that would set them apart as Him own, he had become more of an midianite than a Jew, and God wanted to put a stop to that.
- Zipporah without Moses explaining what was going on knew exactly what to do which tells you they had already had this conversation before and she was not in favor of her boys being circumcised. In fact it was only on pain of death to her husband that she agreed, but afterward she calls Moses "**a bloody husband**" this showed that she also had a lack of faith in the Lord. Before Moses could give a message of deliverance he first needed to learn obedience himself.

- But obedience does cost, as afterward notice Zipporah not only called him a name but also through the foreskin that she had cut off at Moses landing at his feet calling him “**a bloody husband to me**” meaning it was personal. I believe this is when she goes home with the two boys, as it would have been very difficult to minister to Israel, confront Pharaoh, battle with his own self-doubt, and deal with an angry, brawling, faithless woman, at home questioning his every move especially when things didn’t always seem like they were going to get the victory.
- **V6-12** this shows how God’s work in our lives can speak to our family and impact their lives to bring them into a right relationship with the Lord. So while God is doing a powerful work in Egypt He was also doing a wondrous work in Midian with Jethro, Zipporah and the two boys. I like how Moses included both the triumphs and the trials and how God brought them through both, its very important for the people around us to see both our strength and our weaknesses.
- **V13-16** although the people are out of Egypt unfortunately Egypt is not out of them, they are arguing with each other, having their difference amongst one another, and they need a mediator and Moses is it. Remember these are some of the same people that according to **Ex 17:5** wanted to kill Moses now they expect Moses to fix their problems, what a dilemma.
- **V17-18** thankfully God uses others to save us from ourselves, Jethro upon seeing this advises Moses that what he is doing is not good, and if he continues it is going to wear him and the people out. Meaning not only will Moses become weary but those who don’t receive a favorable result will once again turn on him causing discord within the camp.
- **V19-22** so he advises Moses to pray and teach others to be able to make wise judgments, also make sure the people know how to go to God for themselves > **Rom 15:13-14**. He gives them the qualities that Moses should be looking for in the men who will give counsel > Men of ability- able men, Men of Godliness- who fear God, Men of God’s Word- men of truth, Men of honoring covetousness. If it becomes too difficult then they can bring the matter to Moses.
- **V23-27** this proves that Jethro had indeed become a believer and although it was Moses who led the people of Israel out of Egypt it was Jethro who helped show Moses how to lead them through the wilderness. Notice how this method Jethro suggested allowed Moses to be able to focus on other things besides settling disputes all day. People we need others and their wisdom if we are going to do wonderful things for the Lord, its never a one man or one woman show, its an us, not a you ministry, that brings God the glory amen!