

Jason Huffman
Exodus 18
9/11/24

Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

In this sermon, Pastor Jason explores Moses' leadership journey and the importance of growth and maturity in our spiritual lives. He emphasizes that true growth is not just about increasing in size but also deepening our roots, allowing us to withstand challenges and bear fruit. We conclude that effective leadership involves humility, a willingness to learn from others, and the commitment to cultivate strong character alongside one's gifts.

Discussion Questions

How does Jethro's advice to Moses about sharing leadership responsibilities relate to the idea of teamwork in our lives today?

- Jason talks about how Jethro advised Moses to choose able men to help lead and judge the people, emphasizing cooperation and shared responsibility.
- In what areas of your life could you share responsibilities with others to achieve better results?

What did Moses' names for his sons reveal about his experiences and feelings as a leader in a foreign land?

- The message highlights how Moses named his sons Gershom and Eliezer, expressing his feelings of being a stranger and recognizing God's help.
- Do you identify with these names? Do you know what your name means? Do you anyone with specific names that have a deeper meaning?

Why do you think it's important for leaders to be open to advice and feedback from others, as demonstrated by Moses listening to Jethro?

- The sermon shows that even someone as significant as Moses could benefit from the wisdom of his father-in-law, Jethro.
- Think of a time when you received feedback from someone. How did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?

In John 17:15-18, Jesus mentions that His followers are not of the world but sent into the world. How does this relate to feeling like a 'foreigner' in our own lives?

- The message compares Egypt to the world, suggesting that Christians may feel out of place because of their beliefs.
- How can you embrace being different in a positive way in your school, job, or community while still being true to your relationship with Christ?

How can acts of worship and sacrifice, like those performed by Moses and Jethro, help deepen our relationship with God?

- Jason emphasizes the importance of worship and sacrifice as a response to God's actions and a way to grow spiritually.
- What is one specific way you can show God your gratitude this week, whether through worship, service, or giving?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for growth in understanding God's calling in our lives this week.
- Seek God's guidance in applying the principles of leadership and humility discussed in the sermon.
- Ask for opportunities to encourage others in their spiritual walks.

Teaching Notes:

This chapter is a behind the scenes point of view.

Growth is a part of all spiritual gifts & spiritual people.

Specific plants grow certain sizes...

...but they can always mature...

...and mature plants deepen their roots...

...can survive difficult seasons, and bear excellent fruit.

18:1 And Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people—that the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt. **2** Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back,

3 with her two sons, of whom the name of one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land") **4** and the name of the

other *was* Eliezer (for *he said*, “The God of my father *was* my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh”);

Moses had 2 sons in Egypt & gave them meaningful names.
They both described his situation.

Jesus said, in **John 17:13** But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Eliezer recounts God’s salvation, which is true for us too.

5 and 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** Now he had said to Moses, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her.”

This is the same mountain Moses visited at the burning bush.

7 So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and kissed him. And they asked each other about *their* well-being, and they went into the tent.

8 And 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 on the way, and *how* the Lord had delivered them.

Moses is not recounting all the great things he has done...

...but all that God has done.

But Moses also doesn’t sugar coat it.

3 elements to healthy & deep relationship...Time, positivity, & vulnerability.

9 Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the Lord had done for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. **10** And 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* who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. **11** Now I know that the Lord *is* greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, *He was* above them.”

Godly relationships help us grow & see & know the Lord better.

12 Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, took a burnt offering and *other* sacrifices *to offer* to God. And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses’ father-in-law before God.

And after the conversation, they worship & under the leadership of a priest...
...they sacrifice and fellowship together.

Here is a little point of view of Moses daily life...

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?”

Great questions...What are you doing? Why are you doing it?

Moses has a reason for what he is doing...

...but Jethro will have a better way for HOW he is doing it.

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.”

Me, me, I, I 4 times...Moses seems to think he has to do it all.

Moses is doing a good thing, but there is a better way.

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.

It is not good.

You and the people will be worn out.

It is too much for you.

You cannot do it 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.

Moses still will stand before God and lead the people...

...and help the people and teach the people.

But also, get help himself.

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."

Notice they look for 3 things...

A good relationship with God first.

Men of truth who hate covetousness.

Character comes first in leadership.

Gifts are great, but character is what provides the foundation for gifts to flourish.

24 So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

Jethro is just a regular guy who knows and serves God.
He has a good eye for structure & a willingness to help.
...And Moses listens to him.

Leadership is hard enough.
...We don't need to make it harder by...
...being unwilling to learn or listen to others.

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.

Jethro showed up for a few days and made a powerful impact.

Leadership is the L is our LIFE acronym of a mature disciple.
As a mature disciple...We hear a call, see a need, or have an opportunity, and by faith we step up to serve the Lord and bring the love of Christ and the truth of God's Word in the power of His Spirit.