

Scripture Reading: Exodus 18:13-27

Main Point: God cares for His people through leaders that are cared for through His people.

Four Examples of God's care for His people and their leaders:

1. Moses' leadership reflects God's concern for justice among his people (16, 22, 19-20, 18, 23; Hebrews 3:2, 5).

2. Moses' leadership reflects God's concern that his people be taught God's commands (16, 20)

3. Moses' leadership reflects God's concern that his people have virtuous leaders (13-14, 23, 21)

4. Jethro's intervention reflects God's concern that his chosen leaders not wear themselves out (19-20, 17-18).

Lessons:

1. You should pray for, desire, and value virtuous leaders over skilled leaders (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

2. It is good for men to desire and pursue godly leadership roles (2 Timothy 2:2)

3. God's people should eagerly and humbly receive good leadership

4. Every leader and every believer must ultimately look to Christ, the better servant and leader.

“O what qualifications are necessary for that man who has such a charge upon him as we have! O what strongholds we have to batter! What subtle, diligent and obstinate resistance we must expect from every heart we deal with! Prejudice has blocked up our way. We can scarcely obtain a patient hearing. They think ill of what we say while we are speaking it. We cannot make a breach in their groundless hopes and carnal peace, but they have twenty shifts and seeming reasons to make it up again. And twenty enemies who appear to be friends are ready to help them. We do not dispute with them upon equal terms, but we have children to reason with, distracted men (in spiritual things) who will howl us down with raging nonsense. We have willful, unreasonable people to deal with, who when they are silenced are never the more convinced” (Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*).