

# I Need Some Help!



## Day 1

**Sermon Sentence:** When trying to put out fires, the more people the better!

### Exodus 18:1-9

Remember Jethro? The important thing to remember about Jethro is that he is a Midian priest! It is interesting to read in these passages of the continuing interest of Jethro concerning Moses. Jethro's daughter and his grandchildren are already with him and Moses believes in a different God than Jethro, so you would expect that Jethro would have written Moses off as a zealot. However, that is not what we see at all but rather Jethro seems fascinated with the workings of God through Moses and has been following these events since God brought the Israelites up out of Egypt.

- What does Jethro's continued interest in what God is doing through Moses indicate about the faith of Jethro in what he believes spiritually?
- Are there people in your lives that claim to be rock solid in what they believe yet they continue to observe your Christian life and ask you questions about it? What does 1 Peter 3:15 mean to you?
- The example of Jethro watching these events from afar and allowing these events to shape his way of thinking should give us pause. Why is it so important to our witness and the glory of God that we "practice what we preach"?
- How do we strengthen our witness? Consider different areas and their importance.

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## Day 2

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### Exodus 18:10-12

Consider the Exodus experience of the Israelites for a moment. So far they have witnessed some incredible movements of God. They came through the ten plagues unscathed and were delivered out of their captivity in Egypt. They have witnessed seas parting and the Egyptian army destroyed. God has laid low the most powerful nation on Earth at that time in just a few days! They have witnessed water from rocks and bread from Heaven, yet every time they are tested the Israelites lose faith! Now compare them to the faith of Jethro in the scriptures above!

- Jethro is ready to change what he has believed in his entire life based on what God has done through Moses for the Israelites. What is the most striking difference between the faith of the Israelites and the faith of Jethro?
- The Old Testament is full of mighty miracles of God witnessed directly by people. God often manifested to man in very extraordinary ways leaving no doubt as to who He was or why He had come! So in reading these stories of miracles and faith and how often the faith of man still fails in spite of it all, what conclusion can we draw concerning miracles and the building of faith?
- Conversely the New Testament is built on faith alone and the average believer may never see a miracle that compares to a sea parting or bread falling from Heaven. What was the one thing that Jethro used to build faith in the absence of having witnessed these events? Is this the exact same way a NT believer builds faith in the things of God?

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## Day 3

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### Exodus 18:13-16

Verse thirteen just reeks of a Monday morning, doesn't it? After visiting all weekend with family and even seeing a salvation it's right back to the grind! For most of us this scenario Moses is in is our worst nightmare! Picture this, early morning you take a seat and literally thousands of people line up in front of you the entire day to tell you their problems (real and drama). Not only do you have to listen to the whining all day but you have to pay attention because you are expected to deliver a godly judgment being the only person who knows a little about the true character of God!

- This part of the story could be labeled as “the routine”. Moses is so mired in the work that he cannot see the effect it is having on his own life nor the effect it is having on the quality of the lives of the Israelites. What is so dangerous about getting into these routines in life and spirituality?
- What are some of the effects routines have on spiritual growth?
- Jethro asks a question of Moses and the essence of that question is “Why are you doing this, this way?”. We often are asked this same question. What is our typical reply and why are we resistant to think there is a better way?
- There is another important aspect of the Christian walk being displayed by Jethro now that he has converted. What is it? And why is it so important for all of us to do this in our Christian life and church communities?

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## Day 4

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### Exodus 18:17-27

Here is a model straight out of the Information Technology world. Information Technology systems are complex and typically they have one person (system administrator) who is in charge of maintaining that system and knowing all there is to know about that specific system. Now imagine if that person were the only one and this computer system is being utilized 24 hours a day 7 days a week! That is why a model exists where that one person trains other “superusers” who then take a subset of knowledge to the people using the system. Most problems are resolved by the superusers and never reach the system administrator. Only when a problem is new or too complex for the superuser to handle does it ever get escalated.

- Post conversion, Jethro has immediately taken an interest in what is going on in the lives of the Israelite community. Why is this example something we should all seek to follow?
- Now compare the IT model above to what Jethro has suggested to Moses. Is it the same? Why or why not?
- Is Jethro really suggesting anything new? What is the essence of what he is suggesting?
- In our spiritual lives do you seek to get everything you need from one person or do you rely on various sources to be fed?
- What is the danger in allowing one person to spoon feed you everything rather than seeking to know more on your own?
- Why is it wrong for pastors and congregations to allow this “one to many model” to stand without any directions given for growth besides it? Did Jesus do this?
- The last line in the passage above seems obvious but what is so important about Jethro leaving with his new knowledge?

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## Day 5

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### Life Application:

Moses shares his testimony of what God has done in verses 1-9

Jethro's conversion appears to happen in 10-12

Jethro adds to what Moses is doing in verses 13-24

Jethro leaves to share the knowledge in verse 27

1. Witness
2. Convert
3. Serving and connecting
4. Recruit (sharing with others)

Keystone Map:



Exodus 18 has a hidden blueprint for a successful church and a successful Christian walk. In summary we see Jethro make a leap of faith based on evidence presented to him (the Israelites are free), converts to the one true Lord, plugs into his new found community and finally departs and shares his new knowledge with others. This does not mean you have to leave your church family as Jethro left the Israelites but it is important to share what you are learning about God with others outside your church group!

- Think of some steps to apply more of these principles in your life. Where are you lacking and how do you strengthen those areas?