

## **SHARING THE LOAD** *(Exodus 18:13-27)*

*People never run out of needs and there is as much work as we can handle-- in fact there is more than we can handle. That's why God wants us in a body of believers in which we are dependent on the help of others. God has designed his church to experience shared ministry.*

### **I. RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM AT HAND (vv. 13-18)**

1. Moses thought he knew what he was doing.
  - His motives were sincere.
2. The work he was doing needed to be done.
  - He was exercising the explanation and application of God's word.
3. But it was more than Moses could do.
  - The words "not good" v. 17-- expresses in Hebrew a strong disapproval.
  - Why? It was harming Moses and it was harming everyone else. (v. 18)
    - He was overworked and couldn't cope with all he had to do.
    - People were being deprived of immediate attention
    - And competent individuals were not given opportunity to use their talents.
4. Ministry cannot nor should not be a one man show.

### **II. AUTHORIZE SPIRITUAL LEADERS (vv. 19-27)**

1. Notice first that Jethro didn't just give some good advice
  - He mentioned the importance of God's direction (v.19)
  - He counseled Moses to follow God's direction (v.23)
2. You must get organized and delegate responsibility.
  - Sometimes this requires change to organize for growing needs.
  - Sometimes this is difficult for those whose needs must be met.
3. You must choose spiritually qualified leaders to take responsibility.
  - They must be committed to God (v. 21a)
  - They must be committed to truth (v. 21b)
  - They must be committed to others (v. 21c)
4. Moses became the head of an organized ministry
  - The other leaders answered to him so they were all working together and in the same direction.
5. This biblical organization is throughout Scripture.
  - A healthy community of believers is structured and has a shared ministry.
  - We find structures of leadership where many people share the load.
  - Ephesians 4:11-16 teaches the pastors equip the people to do ministry.
    - In the church, every member is a minister.
    - With that leadership comes responsibility for both leaders and followers.
      - Everyone has a spiritual gift, and everyone has a role in the church

*The reality is that there is no perfect system because there are no perfect people working that system. Yet with all its weaknesses, the church is the only institution God has promised will last until the end of time.*