

KINGDOM COMMUNITY COMMUNITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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Exodus 18:13-27

13 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

14 And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?

15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to inquire of God:

16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

Exodus 18:13-27

17 And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.

18 Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

19 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to Godward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

Exodus 18:13-27

21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

Exodus 18:13-27

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 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

27 And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.

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- Here we see in the text once again that Moses, God's delegated leader for the people of Israel, is clear about the limitations that he has alone and the need for support and counsel that comes from those who are concerned about Israel's well-being.
 - Once again, this text illustrates the caution about being a lone ranger and someone seen as the only one who can add value to the purpose of God.
 - God's intent for Israel was to have them understand the need to be organized, the need to function as a team, and the need to understand how to function within the community.

The words of Jethro ring loud and clear
"Moses You Cannot do this alone"

18 Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

- Jethro is not critical of Moses but instead concerned about his well-being. Moses has to find a way to manage the awesome and heavy responsibility that has been laid upon his shoulders.
- Jethro is a blessing to Moses because he comes with a clear understanding about what the problem is but he also offers a solution that is beneficial to Moses and the people.

- Once again, this is a community that is full of people who have problems but very few that can come up with valuable answers to help solve the problems created by the people.
- Everyone in community must be willing to take responsibility for the effectiveness and growth that it will experience.
- Those in the community that will criticize it without taking a responsible role within the community should not have a right to benefit from it.
- Leaders that don't have help will be burnt out, stressed out, and die premature deaths.
- Help is qualified in a way that true help has to get up under the burden, function within the guidelines they are given, and resist the temptation to put their efforts into an agenda that is not consistent with the leader.
- Remember, if you are not bearing a burden, taking on responsibility, or supporting financially, you are not helping.

20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

- It is clear that Moses' main responsibility was to set the policies and teach them the ordinances and laws that will govern the community.
- The Apostles understood this clearly in the early development of the Koinonia community as made clear in Acts.

Acts 6:1-3

1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

- The difficulty many times is finding those who are willing to take the burden and responsibility, stay in their lane, and fulfill the mission of the community.
- The apostles qualified those as honest reports, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.
- Jethro counseled choose men who fear God, men of truth that hate covetousness.
- Moses begins, at the request of Jethro, to organize the community of God so that it can function properly and accomplish its mission.
- They cannot be a spiritual community without being an organized community.
- It's a fact that people can say "I am spiritual but I don't like organized community or religion."

- Just as a spirit needs a body, a community needs to be organized.
- Not everyone is given the same responsibility but everyone has an assignment to carry out.
- We cannot afford to abandon the fundamental elements of what makes a community possible in the first place.
- We can complain all we want about the ills of communities all around the world but we cannot make excuses for why the people of God reject God's prescription for community.
- Notice that Jethro counsels Moses to choose able men, men that were not only able but were willing.
- The community needs those in it that will say "We are well able to stand together and take the land."