

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JANUARY 8, 2025

EXODUS 18:13FF

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Jethro came to Moses bringing his family and making a declaration.
  - a) **EXODUS 18.11:** *“Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods”*
  - b) This is the message God wanted conveyed. (Ex. 9.14)
  - c) What prompted Jethro to make such a declaration? (Ex. 18.8; cf. Acts 10.24,33)
2. Spending time with Moses, Jethro felt compelled to offer his advice.

### I. THE CONTEXT

- A. There is an observation. (Ex. 18.13,14)
  1. **EXODUS 18.13:** *“Moses sat to judge the people”* Literally, decide.
    - a) Judge: Literally, to decide. Moses decided in cases of dispute. (v. 15)
    - b) **EXODUS 18.13:** *“people stood before Moses from morning until evening.”*
  2. **EXODUS 18.14:** *“So when Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he did for the people.”* Jethro saw with his eyes and came to a realization.
- B. There is a question.
  1. **EXODUS 18.14:** *“What is this thing that you are doing for the people?”*
    - a) Jethro did not question his motives, methods, or message.
    - b) **EXODUS 18.14:** *“Why do you alone sit...”*
  2. **EXODUS 18.15,16:** Moses answers Jethro’s questions.
    - a) **EXODUS 18.15:** *“Because the people come to me to inquire of God.”*
    - b) **EXODUS 18.16:** *“When they have a difficulty”* Literally, a word.
    - c) **EXODUS 18.16:** *“the statutes of God and His laws”* (cf. Rom. 5.12,13)
- C. There is a criticism.
  1. **EXODUS 18.17:** *“The thing that you do is not good.”* Literally, beneficial.
  2. **EXODUS 18.18:** *“Both you and these people who are with you...”*
    - a) Doing too much hurts you and the people you serve. (Mark 3.5; 8.11,12)
    - b) People need time to rest from their work. (Mark 6.31)
  3. **EXODUS 18.18:** *“you are not able to perform it by yourself.”*

### II. THE COUNSEL

- A. He counselled Moses to seek God’s counsel. (Ex. 18.19,20)
  1. **EXODUS 18.19:** *“Stand before God for the people”* A mediator.
  2. **EXODUS 18.19:** *“so that you may bring the difficulties to God.”* A prophet.
  3. **EXODUS 18.20:** A teacher in three ways. (cf. 2 Tim. 3.16,17)
    - a) An instructor: *“And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws”*
    - b) A counselor: *“and show them the way in which they must walk”*
    - c) A guide: *“and the work they must do.”*
- B. He counselled Moses to delegate.
  1. **EXODUS 18.21:** *“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men”*
    - a) Men who feared God. Those who respected His authority.
    - b) Men of integrity. Those who would judge without bias.
    - c) Men who hated covetousness. Those who would judge with pure motives.
  2. **EXODUS 18.22:** *“but every small matter they themselves shall judge”*
  3. **EXODUS 18.23:** *“If you do this thing...”*