

Exodus
Lessons from a Lost Preacher- Week #13
Small Group Notes
October 29 and November 1

Main Point: God uses any person or circumstance to teach us truth that honors Him in our lives!

Introduction:

What is the greatest life lesson that you have ever learned? What was a lesson that you learned from an unexpected source? How did it change your life?

Today's study we are going to see a time where Moses was able to share God's truth with his own family, then in turn, he learned a lesson from his own father-in-law that impacted his life.

Discuss:

1. Read Exodus 18:1-6

- Your family is the great work of your life
 - o Jethro knew you don't outsource ministry to your family.
 - o Jethro knew not to stand in the way of the family.

Explain: Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had been separated from Moses for a time, taking care of Moses' wife, Zipporah, while Moses was leading the Israelites out of Egypt. In Exodus 18, when Moses reunited with his Father-in-law, he proceeded to inform Jethro of how God had graciously and miraculously saved them from the hands of the Egyptians, protected them, and provided for them.

Ask:

How did Jethro help Moses with his priorities?

What are ways that you have seen that by reading the Bible it helps you align your priorities?

When your priorities get out of line, what helps you get them back right?

2. Read Exodus 18:7-12

- People are more interested than you think. Exodus 18:9
 - o Jethro shows us our testimony is our most powerful tool in kingdom advancement.
 - o Jethro shows us two great ironies of evangelism. Colossians 4:5-6.
 - We must listen to be heard.
 - We must give to gain.

Explain: We do not know exactly what god or god(s) the Midianites worshiped, but Jethro's response to Moses' account of God's deliverance of the Israelites seems to indicate that he, as the priest of Midian, worshiped other gods. However, when Moses testified to Jethro about God's miraculous and gracious work of saving the Israelites out of Egypt, Jethro responded by confessing that "Yahweh is greater than all gods" (v. 11). When Jethro became aware of God's power and grace in the life of Moses and the Israelites, He responded by confessing the Lord as His God and worshiping Him alone.

Ask:

Why do you think Moses took the time to inform Jethro of all that God did to the Egyptians as well as how He delivered the Israelites? What do you think Moses hoped to accomplish by sharing this with his father-in-law?

What about Jethro's response surprises you? How does it encourage you to share your faith with others?

What are upcoming ways that you can prepare now to share your faith during the holidays?

3. Read Exodus 18:13-26

- Busyness doesn't win you a badge of honor
 - o Jethro knew that "busyness" leads to personal burnout and relational frustration.

- Jethro knew that great leaders equip and empower others.
- Jethro knew that character is far more important than giftedness
- Jethro knew that ministry has to be released for revival to begin
- Moses knew that every great leader must be teachable
- Moses knew that being teachable greets our blindness with sight. Proverbs 27:5, Proverbs 16:25

Explain: As God's chosen leader of His people, Moses saw it as his duty to judge the disputes of God's people. This task, however, was taking up all of Moses' time as he found himself occupied with this task from "morning until evening." Jethro pointed out to Moses that his method of judging was not good. Moses was not only trying to do too much but also thinking too highly of himself by refusing to share the responsibilities of leadership with other faithful men (see 2 Tim. 2:2).

Ask:

In what ways did Moses' priorities need to change? Why did Jethro encourage Moses to share his leadership responsibilities?

What message did Moses communicate to the people of Israel by refusing to share leadership responsibilities with them? What typically happens when one person tries to do it all?

How have you been like Moses before? How can your group be a Jethro to each other?

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