

Series: **Exodus: Seeing God in the Journey**
Title: **Organize for Victory: Comple-mentor (Jethro)**
Text: **Exodus 18; Num. 1,2,11**

HOW THE EVENTS FELL

RECONNECTING WITH FAMILY – EXODUS 18:1-12

A family Reunion

Ex. 18:5-7

⁵ *Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God.* ⁶ *And when he sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her,"* ⁷ *Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent.*

- It's been a while, hugs and greetings
- Family reunion
- Go into the house and sit down over coffee or what-have-you
- How you been/ the kids the job, health
- What's new in your life
- How has God been active in your life?

Moses tells of God's Goodness – Ex. 18:8, 9

⁸ *Then Moses told his father-in-law all that the Lord had done ...and how the Lord had delivered them.* ⁹ *And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the Lord had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians.*

- The hardship and the help
- The struggle and the salvation
- The difficulty and the deliverance
- Don't just rehearse the broken and complain – tell of the mercies of God!

Jethro believes and blesses God – v. 10-12

Blesses the Lord

¹⁰ *Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you*

Believes in the Lord

¹¹ *Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods,*

Offerings before the Lord

¹² *And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.*

PROBLEMS REVEALED – Ex. 18:13-23

¹³ *The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening.*

¹⁴ *When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?"* ¹⁵ *And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; ¹⁶ when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of*

God and his laws.”¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is not good.¹⁸ You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.¹⁹ Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God,²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do.²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.²² And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.”

Jethro Advises Moses – vs.14-23

See the problem (13-18)

- Their Situation
 - 13 - *The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening.*
 - 14 - *“What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?”*
 - 17- 18 – *“What you are doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.*
- Our situation is similar
 - Over extended
 - Unprotected
 - Unprepared
 - Not prioritized

Solve the problem (19-27)

You do your part

vs. 19-20, 22

¹⁹ *Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God,²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. ...^{22b} Every great matter they shall bring to you...*

- He listened and obeyed –
 - ²⁴ *So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.*

1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...

Let Others Do Their Part

Ex. 18:21 -22

²¹ *Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.²² And let them judge the people at all times...but any small matter they shall decide themselves.*

- Choosing helpers 24-26a
 - Important and routine 26b-27

Eph. 4:15-16

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- Preparation
- Delegation
- Decisions

The Blessing – Ex 18:22-23

²² So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.”

GOD’S DESIGN ORDER IN ORIGINS

God designed us from our Origin to live in His Order

Origin One: Created in His Created Order

Gen 1:26

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- The order of Created to bring us into a purpose of His making

Origin Two: Born into an Order

Eph. 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- The eco system of our homes may be chaos – But He has an order for our homes and lives

Origin Three: Saved into His Order

2 Tim 1:9

...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...

Let us look at the areas addressed that needed order and see how they can speak to our lives today.

SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAYS

Decisions: Order in Judicial matters

- 1 to 10 ratio
- Choosing helpers 24-26a
 - Important and routine 26b-27

- making decisions
- seeking council – you need other’s views

Psalm 1:1-2

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Protection: Order in Military matters (Num. 1)

Num. 1:2-3

² *“Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers’ houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. ³ From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company.*

- By tribe – number of fighters
- Support systems to protect and defend
- Prayer support and prayer supporters

2 Sam. 22:3-4

³ *My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. ⁴ I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.*

The Lord’s Prayer – Matt 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Direction: Order in Traveling Matters (Num 2)

Num. 2:1-2

¹ *The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ² “The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers’ houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side.*

- Arrangement of the camp as they traveled and camped

Protecting your identity and the sacred in this world

- At the center is the tabernacle wrapped in the priesthood surrounded by family community within this world

Philippians 2:15

That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...

- We have to protect our identity in Christ and all that is sacred

1 Peter 2:12

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Conviction: Order In Spiritual Matters – Num 1:47-54; Num 3; Num 11

Num. 1:50

But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it.

Num. 3:7

They shall keep guard over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister at the tabernacle.

- Aaron and the Levites
 - Exempted
 - Assigned - around the tabernacle

Prioritize the spiritual dynamic of your life

- 70 elders at the tent of meeting and two outliers
 - **Num 11:24-25** - ²⁴ *So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent.* ²⁵ *Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.*
- God covers all bases
 - Two registered not in attendance
 - **Num. 11:26** – *Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.*
 - **Num. 11:28-29** – ²⁸ *And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.”* ²⁹ *But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!”*

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Matt 5:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- Walking in the Spirit
- Talking in the Spirit