

Exodus 18:1-27
“Help Needed”

~ INTRO ~

SCENE...

- God is using a man to lead His people forward into His promises.
 - And while using this man... Moses gets caught up in the work.

(Ex. 4:24-25) NKJV

- Moses on the eve of deliverance from Egypt...
 - Didn't apply the covenant of *circumcision* to his own son.
 - And God was not having it!
 - His wife had to put her foot down.

(Joshua 5:5) NKJV

- The fathers of the exodus never led their families in the ways of God...
 - They never transferred the covenant of *circumcision*...
 - To their sons... for 40-yrs. they blew God off.

IDEA #1 – FAMILY AND FAITH

SUCCESS MUST NEVER...

- Lay the family on the altar of sacrifice.
 - This is true in your homes & in the church.

TODAY...

- Men & women slave away at work for a better future...
 - While kids grow up absent of real input from mom & dad.
 - Parents have rules... but no relationship with their kids.

TODAY...

- Kids are allowed to dabble with spiritual death at the altar of sports.
 - They miss out on family gatherings & church is NOT a priority.

TODAY...

- Men are passive... and they never enforce spirituality in the home.

(Joshua 24:15) “*as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.*”

HERE'S THE POINT...

- Families are the building blocks of society...

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- And God charges both man & women to do their part.
 - (Titus 2:1-8) NLT.
- Marriage (1 Peter 3:7) NKJV
 - Men get your wives to church.
- Parents teach your kids (Prov. 22:6) NKJV
 - Motivation & restraint.
- Dad's (Col. 3:21) NLT
 - Don't be too strict and provoke your kids to anger.

LISTEN...

- Moses neglected basic spiritual matters with his children.
 - His wife left him AND went back home to her dad.
 - Then about 1-year later Jethro tried to reunite
 - Moses with his family (Ex. 18:5).

IDEA #2 – HARMFUL MINISTRY PRACTICES

NOTICE WITH ME (v.12) *elders* are present...

- But Moses was working like crazy... (vv.13-18)
 - And the leaders called to lead were NOT helping him.

SOLO MINISTRY IS NOT BIBLICAL...

- The pastor is to equip the saints for the work of ministry.
 - So it's the saint who run the facility & advance the mission.

THIS WAS NOT HAPPENING...

- And it appears that other people were selected...
 - Under the advice of Jethro (Moses father-in-law).

IDEA #3 – SHARING THE LOAD

(v.20)

- Teach Gods word
- Show them how to live
- Tell them the work they must do

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(v.21)

- Selecting men to lead (chemistry / competence / character).
 - Qualifications:
 - Able men = Men of ability (2 Tim 2:2).
 - Fear God = Honor God & walk in faith.
 - Men of truth = They distribute justice impartially.
 - Hating covetousness = Not overly ambitious about their life.

[References]

1 Tim 3 / Titus 1 / Acts 6 / 1 Cor. 4:2

A FINAL CHARACTERISTIC OF A LEADER = *being available*

(Heb 4:12)

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit...

- God's word separates the temporal things from eternal things.

SO... a key attribute is = **Availability**

- Many Christians are just too busy to serve Jesus (Luke 9:57-62).

(2 Tim 2:4) NKJV

- *Warfare* = Serving as a soldier in spiritual conflict
- *Affairs* = Pursuits & occupation of civil life
- *Life* = That by which life is sustained (resources, wealth, goods).

IT'S A HIGH CALLING TO LEAD THE CHURCH...

- And most people are not cut out for it...
 - But to those who are called you must be...
 - Faithful (1 Cor. 4:2) NKJV
 - Available (Ex. 18:22 & 26) NLT
 - Teachable (2 Tim 2:2) NKJV