



You Need a Jethro

July 18, 2021

Exodus 18: 13-24

Connect:

- We have likely felt disenfranchised from the life events we thought we were moving toward to the one that we have been catapulted into. Just because we have had this sort of surprise placement, doesn't mean we have to say "yes" to all the unexpected turns that come with it. Moses had major turnabouts of callings in his life. What ones can you name? What were his new roles or expectations there?
- Name a Jethro in your life – a truth teller that you give credit for a change of direction in an event or the condition of your life. What made their influence feel like it was a truth spoken for the human and Divine benefit?

Engage

- Read ***Exodus 18:13-24***. Choose a phrase that draws your curiosity or attention. What questions come into your mind about this segment? How could your imagination fill in the details of this scene from the hearts and minds of those characters there? Share why you selected that phrase.
- This is a pivotal moment for Moses. He was essential to the people and their wellbeing. What sort of energy was required for him to face person after person on his own as judge and leader? Do you think he could listen well? Do you think this fatigued him? Why was this wasting so clear to Jethro, his senior father-in-law that Moses couldn't see or free himself of? Who was Moses neglecting?
- When Jethro came to find Moses in the Israelite camp, he brought him his wife, Zipporah and their two sons. Do you wonder if he was just getting too old to raise those grandsons and he heard that Moses was in the area? Or was there something deeper in his taking them out to the dessert to now be with their husband and father? What do we know about Jethro's view of his own family relationships? What would make Moses listen to and do all Jethro said? What does this say about their relationship?
- Len Sweet names the difference between "Go to peace" and "Go in peace." The first is blessing forward to live each day as if it were your first. The second is to live each day as if it were your last. What kind of Jethro blessing helps to make history before we are history?

Next Steps:

- Maybe you've been making the list of the 11 relationships that fulfill these roles to you. Maybe some names appear multiple times. In all humility, can you go back to the list and name others for whom you have been these mentors? Here they are again, Editor/Nathan, Friend/Jonathan, Back-Coverer/Deborah, Protégé/Timothy, Encourager/Barnabas, Yoda/Peter and Paul, and now Truth Teller/Jethro. We are called to build the kingdom as partners in building people.

Pray:

- *"Thank you God, for some who are especially good at recognizing your purpose in their lives and then mirroring that same intention into our own. When we are falling short, thanks for sending someone to point out the heaviness that is so destructive and point to the purpose that is instructive and reconstructive. Thank you for inviting us to watch and witness into the lives of others for the sake of building your kingdom one heart at a time and then seating us before the thousands, or even one. Amen.*