

jenaministries – Part 5 Bible Stories

5. Moses Needed to Delegate

The story of God sending Moses to Egypt to free his chosen people from slavery and the parting of the Red Sea is well known.

But Moses wasn't done after that. He actually judged and led the people in God's laws for the rest of his life. Moses spoke to God in person and God told him all the commandments that the people were to follow. God didn't speak to anyone else that way. Only Moses knew all the laws and everything fell on him.

It was up to Moses to make sure the laws were enforced by the people. And we're not just talking about a few people. Moses brought 600,000 men not including women and children (**Scriptures 1 – 600,000 Men plus Women and Children - Exodus 12:36-38**) out of Egypt. So if there were as many women as men and each man had three children, that would be 3 million people. That is a lot of people for one man to manage. Moses was judging and teaching day and night.

Whenever there was a dispute, people would go to Moses to settle the matter and to teach them God's laws in that situation. People were lined up to go before Moses all day and all night long.

Thankfully, God saw what was going on and sent someone to help. Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, came for a visit. When Jethro saw what was happening, he had a talk with Moses (**Scriptures 2 – Father-in-law's Advice - Exodus 18:13-27**). He explained to Moses that he couldn't keep going on like this. He needed to delegate. He needed to teach all the people the laws so they could live accordingly. He should also select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. If there is a difficult case, they can bring it to Moses. But all other cases should be judged by these selected men.

Moses did as his father-in-law suggested. That must have made Moses' life so much easier. Not that his life was ever easy, but it must have taken away a lot of unnecessary stress.

Moses was so busy trying to obey God and do everything right, that he couldn't see what a mess it was turning into. It took an outsider to show him what was happening. Why God didn't just tell Moses to teach the people God's laws and select men to be judges is puzzling. But that's God. God uses ordinary people like Jethro (and you and me) to help each other and further his kingdom.

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Scriptures 1. 600,000 Men plus Women and Children

Exodus 12:36-38

The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about **six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children**. Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.

Scriptures 2. Father-in-law's Advice

Exodus 18:13-27

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?" Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions." Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied." Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves. Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.