



MENTOR ME

THEMES: Learning from Others

Exodus 18:24 *Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.*

Jethro was Moses' father-in-law. It seems that Jethro had a good eye for seeing problems. The Bible records in Exodus 18 that Jethro came for a visit and Moses treated him with great respect and honor. Moses told how God had rescued the Hebrews out of Egyptian slavery and Jethro was impressed. But, during his visit to the Israelite encampment, Jethro realized that the magnitude of Moses' responsibilities, were exhausting him. Moses was the recognized leader. So, the people lined up to take their disputes to Moses, who would graciously listen to the parties all day, from sunrise to sundown, and hand down judgments. Jethro saw this task was keeping Moses from more important work and suggested that Moses delegate his office of judge, to others. Jethro asked Moses, "*What are you really accomplishing here? Why are you trying to do all this alone...?*" **Exodus 18:14 (NLT)**. He recommended that Moses continue to teach the people but select leaders over groups of 1000, 100, 50 and 10, to settle their common, small disputes. Jethro even recommended guidelines for selecting the new judges. This formula, he believed, would help to relieve Moses' stress while keeping the people happy.

Moses was not required to take Jethro's advice. After all, Moses was the leader of his nation. However, Moses was teachable. So, both he and the people benefitted from the clever counsel of Jethro. Moses the mountaintop experience with God in Exodus 24 & 34, *after he had implemented Jethro's wise advice* and focused more on communicating with God. Sometimes life's pressures blind us to the more important duties we should be carrying out. At such times, we need to heed the advice of godly friends or church elders who can see our situation from another point of view. It is wise to learn from their perspective and from their experiences.

God has also given us apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to teach us his Word. **Hebrews 13:7 (NKJV)** gives clear instruction that we are to, "*Obey those*

who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Every believer needs a Pastor and can use a Jethro to lessen the likelihood of spiritual burnout or blinding discouragement. This type of mentor can give us sound advice for spiritual health.

On the other hand, the late, great Bishop T.F. Tenney taught that we should also have a Timothy in our lives. He was referring to the fact that Paul mentored and taught Timothy about the ministry. Likewise, we need to pay attention to younger, less mature Christians, who might need encouragement or guidance from the Word of God. We should help our Christian brothers and sisters who are newer to the faith. Others may be so overwhelmed with church or career responsibilities that they may be neglecting time with God. Surely, we can lend a helping hand.

DO YOU WANT TO GO DEEPER?

REFLECTION/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Have you ever had a teacher, coach, preacher or grandparent that made a big impact on your life? Why was their influence so impactful? Would God say that you are teachable? Is there someone that looks up to you as a mentor? How can you challenge them to grow to in their next level in God?

PRAY: Lord, send me a person (like Timothy) to mentor, and help me to find a person (like Jethro) to give me wise counsel.

MORE SCRIPTURES: Ephesians 4:13, I Peter 4:11, James 3:1, I Timothy 3:1-13

God Places Elders in our Lives as Wise Counsel