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Jethro's Counsel Exodus 18

Romans 13:1-2

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Exodus 18:13-14

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 that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone sit and judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

Every leader needs a godly person speaking into their life.

Exodus 18:15-16

Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seeks 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 laws."

We need to be honest about our circumstances.

Exodus 18:17-19

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.

We need to demonstrate humility by allowing others to speak openly and honestly to us.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

To be an effective leader we have to rely on others.

Exodus 18:20-23

Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform. 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.

Genesis 2:18

It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.

Mark 6:7a

Calling the Twelve to him, He sent them out two by two.

Ecclesiastes 4:10

If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

1 Corinthians 12:14-20

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not be for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not be for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, were would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

We must be willing to implement the ideas of others.

Exodus 18:24-26

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.

We have to maintain responsibility for the execution of the plan.

Exodus 18:27

Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into this wonderful light. Once you were not a people but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy but now you have received. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.