

## Sermon Text Discussion 3/20/2016

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Exodus 18: "Leadership and the Mission of the Church" by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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After several chapters full of divine intervention, judgment from heaven, and miraculous deliverance, we arrive at a hinge chapter in the book of Exodus. Israel has now been delivered from the hand of the Egyptians, and God has revealed both His majestic power and His affirmation of Moses as the covenant representative. As this chapter shows us, it is imperative going forward that God's people be led by godly leaders. In this hinge chapter, we see:

- 1) Jethro's worship and the goal of redemption
- 2) Jethro's wisdom and the leadership of Israel

Godly leadership is sustainable leadership, which is necessary if the people of God are to be a true community of worshippers on mission. This is ultimately modeled and fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, the greater shepherd.

### Quotations

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"When Jesus said he was the good shepherd, he didn't just mean that he was better than Moses and the other leaders at helping people figure out how to obey. When he said he was the good shepherd, he added, 'And the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.' And he said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'" -Drew Hunter

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) How does the inclusion of a chapter like this in the book of Exodus (written by Moses) increase the reliability (or believe-ability) of this text? From another angle, why would Moses include a chapter like this in his account of the exodus story of Israel
- 2) Look at Exodus 9:14, 9:16, and 15:13-14. How is Jethro's (a gentile) reaction a beginning of the fulfillment of those verses? What role does Moses play in this?
- 3) After hearing of the Lord's great work on behalf of His people, Jethro rejoices and proclaims God to be the Lord of Lords. Then, he and the elders of Israel partake in a joyful feast together before God. Where else in Scripture do we see this pattern of response (a joyful feast) to becoming a believer in God repeated or referenced?
- 4) In one sense, the work Moses is doing on behalf of the people is good – he is helping the people to fairly settle disputes. However, Jethro points out that his propensity to *overwork* is clearly "not good." What would Jethro say about *your* work-family balance? If you need to improve that balance, what changes need to be made?
- 5) What does Jethro prioritize when discussing what kinds of men to appoint in leadership positions?
- 6) What role did biblical leadership (or lack thereof) play in Israel's history?
- 7) What role does biblical leadership play in our call to be a community of worshippers on mission?