



Lessons from a Lost Preacher

Exodus 18:1-6 (NIV)

Now Jethro, the priest of Midian and father-in-law of Moses, heard of everything God had done for Moses and for his people Israel, and how the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt. ² After Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro received her ³ and her two sons. One son was named Gershom, for Moses said, "I have become a foreigner in a foreign land"; ⁴ and the other was named Eliezer, for he said, "My father's God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh." ⁵ Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, together with Moses' sons and wife, came to him in the wilderness, where he was camped near the mountain of God. ⁶ Jethro had sent word to him, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons."

I. Your family is the great work of your life!

- Jethro knew you don't outsource ministry to your family.
- Jethro knew not to stand in the way of the family.

Exodus 18:7-12 (NIV)

So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. ⁸ Moses told his father-in-law about everything the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the Lord had saved them. ⁹ Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the Lord had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians. ¹⁰ He said, "Praise be to the Lord, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹ Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly." ¹² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law in the presence of God.

2. People are more interested than you think! (Exodus 18:9)

- Jethro shows us our testimony is our most powerful tool in kingdom advancement. (Colossians 4:5-6)

Jethro shows us two great ironies of evangelism:

- ◇ We must listen to be heard.
- ◇ We must give to gain.

Exodus 18:13-26 (NIV)

3. Busyness doesn't win you a badge of honor!

- Jethro knew that "busyness" leads to personal burnout and relational frustration.
- Jethro knew that great leaders equip and empower others.
- Jethro knew that character is far more important than giftedness.
- Jethro knew that ministry has to be released for revival to begin.
- Moses knew that every great leader must be teachable!
- Moses knew that being teachable greets our blindness with sight.

Proverbs 27:5 (NIV)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Proverbs 16:25 (NIV)

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.