

Daily Devotions

Day 1: The Danger of Doing It Alone

Reading: Exodus 18:13-18

Moses sat from morning until evening, trying to meet every need and solve every problem. His father-in-law Jethro observed this unsustainable pattern and spoke truth: "This is not good!" How often do we fall into the same trap, believing that faithfulness means carrying every burden ourselves? God never intended for us to serve Him in isolation or exhaustion. When we insist on doing everything alone, we not only wear ourselves out, but we also deprive others of the opportunity to use their gifts. Today, ask yourself: What am I holding onto that God wants me to share? Exhaustion is not next to godliness. Sustainable, team-oriented ministry is.

Day 2: Priorities Over Urgency

Reading: Mark 1:35-39; Luke 12:13-14

Jesus consistently chose what was important over what was urgent. He rose before daybreak to pray, establishing His priorities through communion with the Father. When someone demanded He settle a family dispute, Jesus refused, knowing it would distract from His mission. Like Jesus, we face constant urgent demands, but not everything urgent is important. The tyranny of the urgent can steal our focus from what truly matters. Jesus could say "It is finished" after three years because He did what the Father assigned, not everything people requested. What urgent things are crowding out the important in your life? Begin each day asking God for your marching orders, not the world's.

Day 3: Building the Right Team

Reading: Exodus 18:19-21; Matthew 10:1-5

Jethro's advice was specific: select capable, honest people who fear God and hate bribes. Building a team is not about filling positions randomly but choosing people with character and competence. Jesus chose twelve ordinary men, invested in them, then trusted them with the gospel message. Notice that qualifications matter, but perfection does not. All twelve disciples were flawed; one would even betray Jesus. Yet He built His church through them. Are you using your gifts as part of God's team? Are you giving others opportunities to serve? Big loads require many shoulders. God's work advances not through isolated heroes but through faithful teams working together for His glory.

Day 4: The Power of Releasing Others

Reading: Exodus 18:22-23; Matthew 28:18-20

The hardest part of leadership is letting go. Moses had to trust that others could handle disputes without him. Jesus ascended to heaven, entrusting the Great Commission to imperfect disciples. True leadership multiplies impact by empowering others. When we release people to serve, we acknowledge that God's work is bigger than any one person. Yes, they may stumble. They may make mistakes. But growth happens through doing, not watching. If you are leading, are you releasing others to lead? If you are following, are you stepping up to your calling? The task becomes easier when shared, and God's kingdom advances faster when many hands carry the torch of the gospel.

Day 5: Carrying Your Part of the Flame

Reading: Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

The Olympic torch traveled through 1,000 communities carried by 14,000 different torch bearers. No single person could complete the journey alone. This is the church. We are a body with many parts, each essential, each carrying the flame of the gospel to our unique sphere of influence—our oikos. You have people in your world that only you can reach. God has strategically placed you where you are for His purposes. The question is not whether you are part of the team; if you are a believer, you are. The question is: Are you doing your part? Today, identify one person in your oikos who needs to see Christ through you. Then act..

Deacons on Call

Cleve Bearden and Marc Traweek

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** See you at VBS ... June 28-July 1
- **First Youth:** See Eric for end of school and summer schedule

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Hello, My Name is Jethro

Exodus 18:13-23

Verses we all
need to Memorize

For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 ESV

MAY 24, 2026

Hello, My Name is Jethro

EXODUS 18:13-23

Jethro was the father-in-law of Moses. But he was also the one responsible for Moses's success as a leader over the people of God.

Jethro provides five ways for leaders to thrive. Whether you lead a family, a small group, a large organization, or a fast-paced business, these five practices are imperative.

1. Change your _____.

2. Build a _____.

3. _____ the team.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been part of a team where one person tried to do everything themselves? What happened? How did it make you feel?
2. Read **Exodus 18:13-23**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Why do you think Moses was trying to handle everything himself? What fears or beliefs might have driven this behavior?
4. Patrick mentioned the difference between "urgent" and "important." What are some "urgent" things in your life that might be crowding out what's truly "important"?
5. **Read Mark 1:35**. Jesus prioritized time with the Father before taking on the day's demands. What prevents you from making this same priority? What would need to change?
6. Jethro gave Moses specific qualifications for team members: capable, honest, God-fearing, and hating bribes. Why are character qualities just as important as skills and abilities?
7. Brother Bill Wright would say, "Always take chances on people." Who has taken a chance on you? How did that impact your life?
8. **Read Matthew 28:18-20**. Jesus trusted His disciples (who were all "knuckleheads,") with the most important mission in history. What does this tell us about how God works through imperfect people?

Scripture References (In order of use): Luke 12:13-14; Mark 1:35; John 8:28-29;

Matthew 10:5; Matthew 28:18-20

Reference Works: Be Delivered (Warren W. Wiersbe); Exodus (John L. Mackay); Exodus—Saved by God's Glory (Philip Graham Ryken); Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers (Max Anders and Glen Martin); Exodus 1-19: Liberating God's People (James Reapstone)



Lots of people hear what you say, but only your oikos knows if you own what you say.