

A People Organized for God's Glory

July 29, 2018

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 18

Pastor Mark W. Turner

Exodus 18 - a teaching chapter before Covenant ceremony at Sinai

- probably not chronological, but fits flow of Hebrew narrative

A Family Visit

- Gershom & Eliezar - tell story of Moses' life: he was a stranger after fleeing, but God helped & delivered him
- Moses honors Jethro – goes out to meet him
- Moses shares about God's deliverance - Jethro worships 12; Us: Rom 12:1
- Family time leads to observations 13-20

A Framework for Organization

- Wisdom is delivered – delegate the work: presbyters: Acts 20:17; Tit 1:5-6; 1 Pet 5:1
- Jethro respected Moses' role as God's prophet 19-20
- Jethro taught delegation of powers to oversee the people
- Not taking role from Moses, but expanding it so others shared & benefited

Qualifications for Spiritual Leadership

21

- Able men
 - not skill, experience, education or wealth but moral & spiritual quality
 - a man's relationship to God - men who fear God; give Godly counsel
 - a man's relationship to others - honesty & integrity before personal gain
- Representatives of People
 - men drawn from all of the people.
 - Dt 1:9-13 - Moses elaborates & has people choose
- Shared
 - Moses was not God, he needed help
 - God used Godly men to share the burden & bless His people

Church Government Applied

- Principles from Exodus 18 guide God's Church today
- We have a better prophet than Moses: Jesus- Prophet, Priest & King
- We are to listen to Jesus Mk 9:7
- Jesus gave us apostles, evangelists, shepherds & teachers Eph 4:11-13
- God provides Godly men today like in Ex 18 with same requirements

Church Government Today

- Able men - 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
 - primarily spiritual & moral character
- Representatives of People Dt 1:12-13
 - men drawn from all of the people.
 - Dt 1:9-13 - Moses elaborates & has people choose
- Shared
 - Jesus calls under-shepherds to serve: 1 Pet 5:1-4
 - plurality of elders: Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2; 16:4; 20:17; 21:18; Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 5:17; Tit 1:5; Jms 5:14; 1 Pt 5:12

Think & Discuss:

- **Why do you think God caused Jethro to bring this advice to Moses? Why not just tell Moses directly?**
- **How should you (we) thank God for His care and provision of elders within the church?**
- **Elders are not Jesus Christ (the ultimate prophet & shepherd) but elders are to minister as undershepherds (1 Pet 5:1-4) using the power of the Holy Spirit. What are the implications for you, for your elders?**
- **It is good for men to aspire to the office of elder (1 Tim 3:1). Using the instructions of Ex 18 and 1 Tim 3 and Titus 1, how would you prepare for this?**
- **How should believers challenge and hold their elders accountable without grumbling and complaining. Search the Scriptures & challenge Act 17:11 vs. Submit/obey your leaders Heb 13:17**