

WISDOM FROM BELOW

EXODUS 18

CAN A GOOD SUGGESTION BRING BAD DECISIONS?

- Intro:
1. Something suggested to a recovering drug addict that he could eat mushrooms to get a high. Instead, He got sick!
 2. How do I know what is good wisdom and what is bad?
 3. It's the source of the suggestion that determines its validity, as Moses forgets this in Exodus 18, we must recall 1stCor. 3:18-19, *"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."* (see James 3:13-18)

Prop: **You must Seek God's Wisdom!**

I. Because Human Experience Is Limited (Exo. 18:1-6).

1. v.1, "priest" = one officiating (a religious leader in Midian)
v.2 "sent her back" = dismissed for separation (Ex.4:25)
2. If we acknowledge God's faithfulness, then we will be cautious of human frailties.
3. Where were Jethro, Gershom, Eliezer, Zipporah during the major work of God's deliverance—out of town
Job reasons, then questions, then listens (Job 28:20-28; 38:4);
and Moses should have questioned Jethro as he approached only after all the battles and conflicts were over.
We must not build our faith and practice on human steps, but rather on God's divine precepts (1stCor.3:10-15)
Jethro and his family deemed Moses unreasonable at first and waited to see how things turned out before trusting his God.
4. Someone starts out as a janitor in a school, then works his way up to supervisor, and later in life owns his own janitorial service and runs the company. His brother-in-law now comes in as an investor—after the sweat, after the success—and begins giving advice on how to run the business. Who's the best advisor? The one who got the job done.
5. Friend, God has done all the work of salvation, His Son won the victory over sin and death, His Spirit inspired the written record for us to know Him...Will you try to build your own religion and practices on your limited experience? Or, will you trust Jesus as Savior today as Jethro had done after seeing all the marvelous work of God's deliverance?

II. Because God's Reputation Is Renowned (Exo. 18:7-12).

1. v.8, "LORD" = Jehovah=personal/covenant name for God (not the generic Elohim that Jethro had referred to as priest.)
v.9, "rejoice" = be glad; be joined
v.10, "blessed" = to kneel
v.12, "sacrifices" = a slaughter (blood of an animal shed)
2. If God's work draws men's attention, then God's wisdom should determine man's direction.
3. 1stCor 2:4, Paul did not propagate opinion, but rather oracle. The Gospel is clearly layed out as God's Work-1stCor.15:1-3
4. Many people choose a physician, a college or even a preacher based on reputation, yet we do not follow the doctor's orders, many students don't bother to attend classes and church members turn an unconcerned ear to the exhortations from God's word.
5. Folks, it is time to take seriously God's power of deliverance... Will you surrender your all today, listen and obey the one who has such a renowned reputation for changing the sin-sick soul into a masterpiece for His glory?

III. Because Worldly Systems Glorify the World (Exo. 18:13-27).

1. v.18, "wear away" = wilt; faint
2. If we go by man's book (whether a set of by-laws, a popular person or a known best-seller) instead of God's best, then we are doomed to future failure.
3. Type of Christ as the one mediator between God and man
Rom.8:34 as intercessor (Heb.10:11-18; 1stTim.2:5)
v.17—Who is Jethro to condemn a practice God had set in place?
v.18—Is not God strong enough to sustain the servant for the task of calling? (see 2ndCor.4:1,16)
v.19—What authority has Jethro to speak instead of God?
4. "Jethro's suggestion created an organization out of which came the seventy, the Sanhedrin, which one night about 1500 years after this met together and plotted the death of the Son of God!" (noted by J.Vernon McGee)
5. Dear soul, there are many who would rather not deal directly with God...but your eternal soul and present successes depend on you receiveing Jesus as your personal Savior. Will you turn from this world's picture of religion and come to God today through His Son Jesus?



Trinity Children's Challenge

EXODUS 18

Match these people from Exodus 18:1-4 with their family _____ relationship to Moses:

Jethro
Zipporah
Eliezer
Gershom

Wife
Son
Father-in-law
Son

Cross out the names not mentioned in the worship service described in verse 12:

Jethro - Aaron - Elders - Zipporah - Moses - Eliezer

Moses was God's appointed Ju___ ___ (vs. 13) of the people.

What did Jethro, Moses Father-in-law, say about what God told Moses to do? (see verse 17) it was _____.

Who did Moses listen to in verse 24? _____.

CROSS OUT THE PICTURE THAT DOES NOT GO WITH MOSES LIFE...

