

KEEP JESUS WEIRD

An 8-Part Study of the Book of Acts - **Part 6: Leadership** - Sermon Study Guide 5|12|19

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Study Questions:

What was the difference between “Hellenistic Jews” and “Hebraic Jews”?

What was going on in verse 1? Why were widows standing in line for daily food distributions?

What is the key leadership decision that the twelve apostles made in verses 2-4?

Who did the proposal please in verse 5? What did all seven of the men who were chosen have in common? Why was that important?

What was the significance of the apostles praying while laying their hands on the new leaders?

The story of Jethro and Moses from Exodus 18 is another example of the strategic discipline of delegating responsibilities. What was Moses’ life like at this point in time?

It’s very likely that Jethro came to stage an intervention with Moses, perhaps after being prompted by his daughter and grandsons (Moses’ wife and sons). Before “cracking down” on his son-in-law, how did Jethro begin his conversation with Moses?

Bible References:

Acts 6:1-6 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Exodus 18:5-9,13-24 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...”

7 So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. 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.

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What were Moses' justifications for trying to do it all?

13 The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. 14 When Jethro saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

Why did Jethro say, "What you are doing is not good...?"

15 Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. 16 Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."

What was Jethro's advice to Moses, and how was Jethro's wisdom evident later in Jesus' ministry?

17 Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. 18 You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. 19 Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. 20 Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. 21 But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 22 Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. 23 If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

How would you describe the difference between working for a leader who "does it all" and working alongside a leader who shares the load with others?

How does your life today resemble Moses' life the day Jethro paid him a visit?

We're all trying to do too much. The Bible calls us to:

1. Set our _____.
2. Shrink our _____.
3. Share our _____.

How can you apply the wisdom of Jethro, Jesus, and the apostles to your life today?

24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

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