

4/5/24

Lesson 3

Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, we thank for your word that you have given for our instruction in righteousness. Bless us now as we study your law and given us your insight that that we may learn and live a life pleasing to you. We have nothing but what your spirit gives us. In Jesus name

Our passages is Deuteronomy 1:12-18.

It is significant that this takes place before the first giving of the law at the Mount. That is, the law was already well-known before it was written down.

Particularly that justice was required before the law.

The Lord had delivered about 600,000 military age men out of Egypt under Moses. That means the congregation of the Lord here numbers several million, counting women and children. The vast numbers of people now overwhelmed Moses as they sought his judgment about the smallest matter.

At this time, Moses had the total responsibility for that vast multitude, and he was overwhelmed.

Moses says in 1:12 *How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife?*

What are the circumstances of v. 12?

What is significant about the location here In Exodus 18:13-27, Moses' father-in-law saw that Moses was overwhelmed with people bringing their problems to him. In **18:17**, he advised Moses as to what to do. This was before the first giving of the law in on at the Mount, Exodus 19 and 20.

BTW, what was his father-in-law's name? **Jethro**

Someone read loud enough I can hear you.

Exodus 18:13 *And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. 14 And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What [is] this thing that thou doest to the people? why*

sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? 15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: 16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make [them] know the statutes of God, and his laws. 17 And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest [is] not good. 18 Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that [is] with thee: for this thing [is] too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. 19 Harken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: 20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. 21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place [such] over them, [to be] rulers of thousands, [and] rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: 22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, [that] every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear [the burden] with thee. 23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee [so], then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. 24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. 25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves. 27 And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.

What are some lessons

First,

Moses was the greatest man EVER to live other than Christ Himself. God used Moses to lay the foundation for everything, even for what Christ did. Moses is the basis of the Christian faith. We cannot even imagine a man like Moses in our day of corrupt humanist thinking.

Under the Spirit's inspiration, Paul simply applies and develops Moses.

Notice something with this great man of God. He did not have all the answers. He was able to accept advice and admit that he did not have all the answers.

We would think that God would have revealed this plan of Deuteronomy 1 and Exodus 18 to Moses, but he did not. God used his father-in-law, who was Midianite to instruct the greatest man alive, and who probably the greatest who ever lived.

Why do you think God did not reveal this to Moses instead of Jethro?

These things happened as ensamples for us:

What example does God set before us here?

Meekness

What did God say about Moses?

Numbers 12:3 *(Now the man Moses [was] very meek, above all the men which [were] upon the face of the earth.)*

Exodus 18:24, **so Moses harkened.** Moses is spoken of as the meekest of all men, and v. 24 shows his meekness.

Define meekness:

The meek are tamed by God. The meek are harnessed to the Word of God.

Meekness is before God, not before men. Christians are commanded to boldly go forth in the spirit of Christ and conquer the world for Christ. They must boldly face the anger and wrath of those who hate God.

We listened to the history of the Reformation, particularly concerning Martin Luther. He was a meek Roman monk, but when he grasped the truth of God, he was bold as a lion, and God protected him from every effort by Rome to stop him. He overturned the church of Rome.

I remember in the 1940s, my dad had a sawmill. He used horses to bring the logs out of the woods, and brought home an abundance of mushrooms.

At probably 8 or so, I would help my granddad shuck corn. We would take the ear off the stock, and throw it into a wagon pulled by horses. He used horses to pull the wagon through the cornfield so as we pulled the ear of corn from the stock we could throw it into the wagon. We had what was called a hook on the palm of the hand that allowed us to separate the shuck from the ear.

Those horses would obey the spoken command to move ahead and stop when told.

That kind of obedience is what God desires of his people.

Can anyone tell me a verse that speaks of being broken to harness to the word of God?

Isaiah 30:21 *And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This [is] the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*

Psalms 32:8 *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*

What are some NT verses that define meekness?

James 4:10 *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

How does God teach meekness?

Psalms 25:9 *The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.*

For me it has been the school of hard knocks.

Trial and many errors

Foolishness

Illness

Calamities of all kinds

Married life and children most defiantly.

Even Christ learned obedience through his experiences. Heb 5:8.

We see in the New Testament that as men were faithful in the small things through all the trials that come his way, they are exalted by God to larger things. They are given more responsibility.

We see here with Moses that we **must be willing and able to listen** to and heed advice even from those whom we consider "below our station," which is a bad term. We are equals before God, and only hold different positions in the body of Christ.

[Those various stations of life are defined in 1 Cor. 4:1-7, and Rom. 12:1-6.

We are told that every person is where he is by the grace of God, and he is to be content and do his best in whatever *state he finds himself*. (Philip 4:11, 1 Tim 6:8, Heb 13:5)

Moreover, each person has been given unique qualities according to God's good pleasure, and we must not envy one another in their position in life.]

It was God's grace that placed Moses in his very exalted "station" of life. Though Moses protested, God gave it to him that position anyway.

Who was envious of Moses's position?

Moses couldn't handle that great responsibly all alone. He had to have help. It is not a sign of weakness to ask for, accept or require help carrying out what God has for us to do. In fact, prosperity from God will require the help of others.

So the FIRST lesson is what?

Listen to advice regardless of its source. Then commit that advice to the Word of God to see if it is worthy to follow. Don't let pride or stubbornness get in the way of good advice.

SECOND: where are some places where Jethro's advice in Deuteronomy 1:12-18 and Exodus 18:13 – 27 are applied.

How does this advice apply in the gospel church?

Implied is a deacon for every 10 families.

Deuteronomy 1:17, who is the final arbitrator in the Church

There is a hierarchy and responsibility in the local body of Christ

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.*

Several denominations recognize a hierarchy outside of the local congregation. Moreover, the reformed Baptist I know of have a plurality of elders. Most churches have Trustees, an office that is not at all mentioned in Scripture. It is an office created to satisfy the state.

Where does Paul apply Exodus 18 and Deuteronomy 1?

1 Timothy chapter 3 and Titus 1:4

Third, what kind of judgment is required in by Christ?

Deuteronomy 1:26, 17

Christ tells us to *Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.* John 7:24

From where does Jethro say righteous judgment comes?

Exodus 18:20 *And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.*

Righteous judgment is impossible without knowledge of the law of Moses.

Note the time line. The written law was not given until Exodus 20

In the early days of this nation, the law of Moses was used to determine legal questions. That was known as Common Law because everyone knew the law of God. Also, Blackstone legal commentaries were commonly used in courts of law. He was a Christian jurist and applied law in a Christian context. Someone gave me a set, but I passed them on with my library to Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary.

I have not been to bible college, but I seriously doubt they teach how to render righteous judgement as Jethro urges on Moses here. From what I have heard, the major emphasis is on Pastoral Psychology.

Defined: Pastoral Psychology is an international forum that addresses varied aspects of religion and spirituality from physical, human science, and interfaith perspectives.

Human experience and feelings have replaces the law of God.

We are required to render righteous judgment according to the Law of the Lord.

LET US PRAY

Father, we thank you for your word that instructs us in the way of life, and health. We pray you will equip us to do battle against the forces of evil in boldness. We pray that you will deliver us from the spirit of evil that has engulfed our nation. Send your spirit of repentance and righteousness, for only you can turn our nation and the apostate churches back to yourself. We pray for the persecuted church in the communist countries, in the Hindu countries, in the Muslim countries, in Canada and here is our beloved nation. We thank you for your promise of victory as we are faithful to you. Give boldness in the face of your enemies. We thank you for your promise of victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. In his name, amen