

Remnant Life Church  
October 27, 2019  
*The Wisdom of Biblical Leadership*  
Exodus 18:12-27

The Bible is a guide in literally every phase and component of our lives

- How to handle money
- How to get along with other people
- How to have a satisfying, fulfilling marriage
- How to settle disputes
- Even how to eat right if you want to make a change to your body for the better
- It also tells us how to be wise and godly leaders and what the characteristics of those people should be
  - Everyone is a leader in some fashion
  - For some it may be in an obvious way where you are leading many individuals or a group of people
  - Others may say, I don't think I lead anybody, but if you are a part of family or have a job, or live among people, you are a leader.

In order for a church to become established and then to grow, there must be godly and wise leadership including a sound structure from which a sense of stability is felt and seen by the people.

The Bible gives us an account of what this looks like in a conversation between Moses and a man named Jethro.

**READ – Ex 18:12-27**

Context:

- Who is Jethro?
  - He was a sheik, sometimes called a priest of the ancient city of Midian (located in modern-day Saudi Arabia)
  - His is the father of 7 daughters one by the name of Zipporah who became the wife of Moses
    - Moses helped her and her sisters
    - Draw water from their father's well, shepherds came and took the water, Moses drove them away
  - This is the second instance when Moses intervened in a situation of injustice
    - The first...but he took it upon himself to be the judge, jury, and executioner for the crime committed (Ex 2:11-12)
    - The second he simply put a stop to what was happening (Ex 2:16-17)
    - The result for Moses was much different – exile/a wife
  - God will often allow a similar situation to come into your life a second time that you may have failed the first time
    - In order to grow, learn, trust, and increase your faith
    - Are you willing to do things differently?

- It was to this land of Midian that Moses ended up living after killing the Egyptian
- The Midianites were a people that came from the line of Abraham and Keturah, the woman he married after Sarah died - Midian was their 4<sup>th</sup> son ([Gen 25:1-2](#))
  - They are described in the Bible as being a polytheistic nation meaning the worship of many gods
- The distance Moses traveled cannot be determined as we don't know his exact route from Egypt through the Arabian desert toward the Red Sea
  - The Red Sea (which is between Egypt and Midian) is a long (little under 1400 miles – from Hbg to Dallas) but relatively narrow (255 miles at its widest) body of water that forks into two gulfs
    - On the eastern side is the Gulf of Suez
    - On the western side is the Gulf of Aqaba
- Moses most likely would have left the city of Rameses in Egypt, traveling southeast through the desert, reaching the Gulf of Aqaba he would have turned north and followed its shores, then once at the top of the gulf turned south again into the land of the Midians
  - Remember Moses was educated by the most brilliant minds of the day
  - Knew geography of the region well
  - NOTE: If you look up the route many biblical scholars say he might have taken on this trip, Moses passes along the very shore many believe (including me) the spot where the children of Israel would cross over on dry land some 40 years later.
- The timing of this conversation between Moses and Jethro
  - They have crossed the Red Sea ([Ex 14](#))
  - God has provided manna and quail ([Ex 15](#))
  - Have seen God miraculously provide water from a rock ([Ex 16](#))
  - And they have even had their first military victory over the Amalekites
  - The people have not yet received the law from God
    - 10 commandments
    - Social laws of living together
  - Moses goes every day to sit in a central location and judges the disputes the people have
- Have you ever felt like you have gotten involved in something that ended up being completely different than you thought it would be or how it first appeared?
  - The story of the business owner...
  - Moses began in that same way while in Egypt
  - [Acts 7:25](#) tells us that he thought his people would recognize him as someone who could help them
    - But then he killed a man
    - And had to flee

One of the reasons Moses accepts Jethro's advice is that they have a good relationship with each other:

- [Ex 18:5-9](#) - *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. Jethro had sent*

word to him, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons.” So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. 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. 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.

- But then Jethro sees what Moses is doing each day and gives him wise counsel on how to better serve the people
  - What was the summary of what he told him?
  - YOU NEED HELP!
- This a very important truth about the work in the church today as well
  - We must serve God together
  - But we need a right structure to do that

#### The structure at RLC

- We are a church that was founded on the belief that the pastor has been appointed by God to lead the church and have, not only the final say in what happens, but also the final responsibility (answers to God)
- But I knew at the very beginning I could not, nor did I want to do it alone
- BOD put in place – people have come and gone over the 7 years but the responsibility of working with me has remained
- God began to press on my heart about a year ago the need and the importance of adding the position of “Elder” to the leadership structure of our church
- Why?
  - In order to bring us more in line with the biblical structure of the NT church
  - The BOD will be responsible for the physical and financial aspects of the church
  - The elders will assist me with the spiritual responsibilities

The responsibility of an elder covers several areas (handout on table)

What the Bible says:

- **Titus 1: 7-9** - *Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless (unable to accuse)—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to riotous living, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

Three that are primary here at RLC:

1. Help guard the spiritual condition of the church
  - a. Doctrine
  - b. False teaching
  - c. Walk alongside me
2. Be available to the congregation
3. Pray

- a. For each of you
- b. For the direction of the church
- c. For and with the pastor

Much prayer, observation, and seeking God

- Vance Crawford; Karen Flickinger; Tom Stephenson
- They will join Katerina and me as the elders of the church
  
- Elders are not perfect
- It is not a position that someone should aspire to have (wrong motivation)
- It is the position of a servant

They are here to pray with you, stand with you, listen to you, offer guidance and help you.

The BOD and Elders will work side-by-side with me