

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a


A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Tony & Marcia Haug | JAPAN

PRAISE

- for a visit to the US to visit our family and some of our supporting churches. This was a great time of encouragement.
- for His provision of all needed funds to repair both church facilities

PRAY

- for Mrs. Kumai, she is struggling with depression.
- for Tony’s complete restoration of strenght in his right arm and for nerve pain to go away.
- for Mrs. Sakiko Uhara and her daughter to return to church.
- for Taiga Takeyasu, a pastor-in-training at SCBC.

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Let the Pastors “Move Over”

People were standing in line all day to wait for a chance for one man to hear their cases and render verdicts. And Moses rightly wanted to help the people because they came to him “to inquire of God” (18:15). This tells us that his heart was right, but his plan in this case was bad. Moses was a good and capable man, but he wasn’t God. Both he and the people were going to “wear out” physiologically and psychologically if he didn’t get some help, because Moses couldn’t do it all—and the people couldn’t wait forever for justice.

Jethro offered Moses some helpful advice (18:19). He encouraged Moses to be the mediator—to represent the people before God and teach them the way to live (18:19–20). In other words, he counseled Moses to pray to God for the people and to teach God’s laws. But he warned him that he could not be the sole person responsible for helping each and every person to apply God’s laws to their specific situations. While Moses could provide the people with a spiritual framework, they would need more than Moses alone to help them fill in the details of how to apply it.

Jethro encouraged Moses to select men who were God-fearing, trustworthy, and [who hated] dishonest profit. This strongly suggests that the priority in enlisting spiritual leadership should be identifying those who are living in a godly manner and are biblically focused in their dealings. When Paul listed qualifications for church leaders, in fact, the lists consisted primarily of character qualities (see 1 Tim 3:1–12; Titus 1:6–9). Moses needed to identify leaders who loved God, knew his law, and submitted to it in their own lives. Such men could then lead groups of people, tackling their issues in bite-sized chunks, and teaching them how to apply the Word of God to their lives.

Such a team of leaders could judge the people at all times. Moses could continue to judge every major case, but the leaders could judge every minor case (18:22) in his stead. That translated to no more waiting in line all day for the people and no more heavy burden of playing judge and teacher having to be carried by Moses alone. This way, Moses could endure, and the people could go home satisfied (18:23).

Here I see a reminder to the church that pastors cannot bear the burdens of the church alone. Wise, Word-centered church lay leaders must share the load. By dividing the work in this way, more Christians can be trained to think biblically about life, and they in turn can help their brothers and sisters in Christ to think and live biblically. This is how the body of Christ is built up. It was never intended to be a one-man job.

Moses listened to his father-in-law’s advice and chose leaders to serve in the young nation’s new judicial system (18:25–26). In this story God used a Gentile man to provide wise counsel for the effective administration of the entire Jewish nation.

Source: Tony Evans Bible Commentary 1

KEY VERSE

Exodus 18:25 (NKJV)

Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Exodus 18:12-27; II Timothy 2:1-7

Introduction

1. In today's reading, Moses received great advice from his father in law. Name someone who gives you good advice. What makes their advice helpful?
2. Name someone you see at church who is working hard in ministry. How can you encourage them?

Tuesday: Exodus 18:13-16; Numbers 11:10-15

A Pastor Centered Ministry is an Incorrect Model for Ministry

3. Describe the situation that Moses faced in today's readings.
4. What limitations does a ministry centered on the Pastor face?

Wednesday: Exodus 18:17-18; Matthew 9:37

The Results of a Pastor Centered Ministry is Harmful

5. What analysis did Jethro give regarding the results of Moses leadership?
6. How is it harmful if the ministry of the church is centered on the Pastor?

Thursday: Exodus 18:19-23; Acts 5:42-6:7

A Member Centered Ministry is the Correct Model for Ministry

7. List all the things that Jethro told Moses he should do to change his leadership.
8. What makes a member centered ministry better than a Pastor centered ministry?
9. How is this modeled in today's passage from Acts?

Friday: Exodus 18:24-27; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28

The Results of a Member Centered Ministry is Maturity

10. What results of a member centered ministry did Moses experience in today's reading?
11. How does serving in a church impact your spiritual maturity?
12. What is a Pastor's responsibility in the church? What is the member's responsibility?