

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 31, 2021

Serving in the local church can be difficult because of the tremendous demands that many individuals experience, especially single parents. In any family, serving the needs of other family members is necessary for the family to remain strong, caring, supportive, and productive. I am sure when Peter allowed Christ to use his boat in Luke 5, he did not know that this would lead to him following Christ, preaching at Pentecost, and writing letters that would be published as scripture for all of us to read. Maybe this is why Peter writes; “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10; NASU).



Years ago, a convention met in Indianapolis to discuss “How to Reach the Masses.” One day during that convention a young man stood on top of a box on a corner and began to preach. A crowd gathered, mostly working men going home to their suppers. They were electrified by the sermon. They forgot that they were tired. They forgot that they were hungry. The crowd became so dense that it had to move. The preacher announced that he would preach again at the Academy of Music. They followed him down the street, singing as they went, and they filled the main floor of the building, sitting with their dinner buckets, while he preached again with such power, they were moved to tears. But he had only a few minutes to preach because the convention on “How to Reach the Masses” was gathering in the same auditorium. While the convention was discussing how to reach the masses, D. L. Moody was doing it!

D. L. Moody put his faith to work and made a difference while everyone else talked about it. We understand that Christ uses His church to build us up (Ephesians 4:12-13; 1 Peter 4:7-11; Matthew 25:31-46). We understand that He placed all His spiritual gifts in the church, and this is the place through which He impacts each life and the world (Ephesians 1:22-23), but yet many sit idle while expecting God to do much.

The local church is God’s way of recreating the Garden of Eden to empower, restore and fellowship with us. He tried the Promise Land, but man served idols, and worked to get rich and neglected God. Now God has established the church and instructed us; “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4-5; NASU). “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

UPCOMING Events



MISSIONS MONTH

We hope you have enjoyed Missions Month and learning about our LWFC Missions projects all across the globe. Please continue to support Missions both here and abroad along with our missions partners. View our featured videos, displays in the foyer, and our Missions page on the website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions. We are always looking for volunteers so join the Missions Ministry! We Are Living Word and We are on a Mission!



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Join us Every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. until Nov. 16th for the Center for Christian Living Bible Study Series, *The Helper: A Deeper Understanding of the Holy Spirit*. This Series will be available in-person, on Facebook, on YouTube, and all breakout classes at 7 p.m. will be offered on Free Conference Call. Download your Bible Study Notes at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes



HARVEST FEST IS TODAY!

SUN. , OCT. 31ST 1:00—4:00 P.M.
Harvest Fest is HERE! Fall Festival, Church Picnic and our Family Friends Fellowship is all combined into one event today after second service. Join us for Fun, Games, Bouncers, Low-Cost Food & a Costume Contest: Wear Your Favorite Bible Character for a Chance to Win 1st, 2nd or 3rd Prize! It’s not too late to come, fellowship, connect with the community and your deacon families. See you today for HARVEST FEST FUN & FELLOWSHIP!



OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

We honor fighters, survivors and those who have lost their battle with breast cancer. We support and fight alongside those on the front lines to create awareness. View our video on our YouTube channel and learn more at www.sistersnetworkinc.org



CHRISTMAS IN HAITI—TOY FUND—NOV. 7TH

Give to the Haiti Toy Fund so we can send toys to children in Haiti to allow them to have a bright and beautiful Christmas filled with joy. Give by Nov. 7th on the Give Tab Choose



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Worn Out”

Exodus 18:17-27

Pierre Cannings

Assistant Pastor

Full sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the “Resources” tab and click “Sermon Notes”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

Ages 2—6th grade



SERMON OUTLINE

Worn Out Exodus 18:17-27

I. Wear & Tear vs. 17-18

- a. Jethro – No Israelite would have created this potentially threatening account of a pagan priest's participation in the formation and structure of Israel's jurisprudence system, unless it lay at hand in their traditions, whether oral or written.
 - i. This encounter between Moses and Jethro is an occasion for the author to recap and celebrate what Yahweh has done for Israel, but much more. This Midianite priest, a non-Israelite religious leader, hears Moses recount to him, in Moses' own tent (18:7), the exodus event—Israel's deliverance from the Egyptians
 - ii. Jethro's recognition of the power and authority of Israel's God enabled him and also qualified him to offer sage advice to Moses, for Jethro was, as a priest himself, aware of the need for efficiency in any system in which a leader must organize and administer justice to his people
- b. Not Good – The broad scope included in the Heb. word אֵינִי is clear in the context. The situation was not "good" for anyone, Moses or the people
- c. Wear Out- to crumble away to wear oneself out, lose heart; not viable
 - i. You
 - ii. The response of Jethro to Moses' explanation is practical: Moses is wearing out both himself and the people, who must wait long hours before they can see him; but the response is also clearly perceptive of the source from which the counsel comes. Jethro tells Moses that he will be unable alone to bear the weight of the work he has undertaken
 - iii. Those with You – That the judicial workload must have been too much for one man is shown by the incontrovertible fact that both Moses and the people who waited for justice could not conclude business in a reasonable time span. In effect, Jethro's argument is an early version of the now popular legal saying "Justice delayed is justice denied."
- d. Tested Task to Heavy
 - i. Heavy – Difficult
 - ii. You can't do it alone

II. Get Help vs. 19-23

- a. Listen
 - i. Counsel – to advise
 1. wise person seeks counsel when making plans: "Without counsel plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed" (Prv 15:22). One's counselors may be one's parents (Prv 1:8), older people (Ez 7:26), prophets (2 Chr 25:16), wise men (Jer 18:18), or friends (Prv 27:9 kjv). Some counselors are evil, giving deceitful advice (Prv 12:5).
 - ii. God be with You - That is, may God help you as you consider (cf. v. 23) this recommendation
- b. Roles
 - i. You Representative
 1. You bring disputes
 2. Teach – to caution clarify, caution, inform," rather than "warn," as it does in other contexts
 - a. Statutes- prescription, rule
 - i. For Israel, everything required by the covenant was a matter of life and blessing, if properly observed, or of death and cursing, if ignored or forsaken. There are no circumstances that allow for the antisocial act of one human being killing another human being with no legal sanction: thou shalt not commit murder
 - b. Laws
 3. Make Known
 - a. Way to Walk – The way they should live" is literally "the way they should walk/go" This term becomes the "way of Yahweh" (cf. Exod 32:8; 33:13; Deut 5:33; 8:2; 10:12; 11:22; 32:4) and indicates life lived according to Yahweh's instructions, his words, his acts. When they know God's way, they are expected to follow it. This terminology was picked up as the Way in the nt as a bridge to God's acts in Christ in the book of Acts. The Way described the beliefs and lifestyle of the Christians (Acts 9:2; 19:23, 22:4; 24:22,
 - b. What to Do
 - ii. Select
 1. Select– Here, in a purely social context, the word indicates Moses' ability to discern those who have certain intangible qualities, but whose qualities are also visible to those who are sensitive to them.
 2. Able Men – competent "Men of ability", are men who have various kinds of gifts, strengths, aptitudes, or skills. They were competent and influential. These men could later serve Moses undoubtedly as skilled men in writing, speech, administration, and other capacities

- a. Fear The fear of God helped establish them as men of character and truth for they would not corrupt through bribery the jurisprudence system they were being called on to establish. When those who are to operate a system of justice become corrupt, the system is compromised and becomes useless and void.
 - b. Truth
 - c. Hate Dishonesty Gain – Men of ability, men of integrity, and men who will not take a bribe are the centerpiece of Jethro's advice, and in the ancient Near East this requirement for judges and leaders was written into the laws.
3. Lead over – These men would be stalwarts of the ethical, theological, educational, and moral system of Israel. If they failed to embody the perfect laws of Yahweh, the people would suffer. Functionally, they took much of the load off of Moses in a systematic way and helped to disperse the instructions of Yahweh.
4. Judge people
 - a. Minor they judge
 - b. If God Commands Jethro's ultimate appeal for the implementation of his jurisprudence system was respectful and appealed to the word of God – "if this 'system' you put into effect and God command you" (cf. v. 19)

III. Accept Counsel vs. 24-27

- a. Accepting his father-in-law's advice, Moses apparently implemented the judicial court system after the Law was given at Mount Sinai (Deut. 1:9–15; cf. Horeb in Deut. 1:6).



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Save the Date
**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2021**

8:30 A.M.
IN LEGACY SANCTUARY

**LEADERS LET'S FINISH THE YEAR
STRONG WITH THE
LAST TRAINING OF THE YEAR!**



PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Linda Rainey's family, Reese Times & family, and Nedra Chew & family

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Eric White, Lakessia Davis, and Rutha Patrick.

WORN OUT

EXODUS 18:17-27