

July 23, 2014
“How to be a Good In-Law”
Exodus 18:1-27

- 1) Listen and be Sensitive *“Moses’ father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, heard about everything that God had done for Moses...”* (1)
- 2) Respect the New Home *“I your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons.”* (6, cf 4:26)
- 3) Love your Children *“So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and then kissed him. They asked each other how they had been and went into the tent.”* (7)
- 4) Celebrate God’s Blessings Together *“Jethro rejoiced over all the good things the Lord had done for Israel...”* (9)
- 5) Worship God Together *“Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God...”* (12)
- 6) Help Resolve Problems
 - Observe *“The next day Moses sat down to judge the people, and they stood around Moses from morning until evening. When Moses’ father-in-law saw everything he was doing for them, he said...”* (13-14a)
 - Ask Questions *“What is this thing you’re doing for the people? Why are you alone sitting as judge...?”* (14b)
 - Suggest an Alternative that’s in their best interest, *“You will certainly wear out...”* (18), has long term benefit. *“Instruct them about the statutes and laws...”* (20), and will leave the final decision with them and God, *“If you do this, and God so directs you...”* (24)

Exo 18:1-27 Moses' father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, heard about everything that God had done for Moses and His people Israel, and how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. (2) Now Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had taken in Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, (3) along with her two sons, one of whom was named Gershom (because Moses had said, "I have been a foreigner in a foreign land") (4) and the other Eliezer (because *he had said*, "The God of my father was my helper and delivered me from Pharaoh's sword"). (5) Moses' father-in-law Jethro, along with Moses' wife and sons, came to him in the wilderness where he was camped at the mountain of God. (6) He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons." (7) So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed

down, and then kissed him. They asked each other how they had been and went into the tent. (8) Moses recounted to his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardships that confronted them on the way, and how the LORD delivered them. (9) Jethro rejoiced over all the good things the LORD had done for Israel when He rescued them from the power of the Egyptians. (10) "Praise the LORD," Jethro exclaimed, "who rescued you from Pharaoh and the power of the Egyptians and snatched the people from the power of the Egyptians. (11) Now I know that Yahweh is greater than all gods, because *He did wonders* when the Egyptians acted arrogantly against Israel." (12) Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law in God's presence. (13) The next day Moses sat down to judge the people, and they stood around Moses from morning until evening. (14) When Moses' father-in-law saw everything he was doing for them he asked, "What is this thing you're doing for the people? Why are you alone sitting as judge, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" (15) Moses replied to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. (16) Whenever they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I make a decision between one man and another. I teach *them* God's statutes and laws." (17) "What you're doing is not good," Moses' father-in-law said to him. (18) "You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can't do it alone. (19) Now listen to me; I will give you some advice, and God be with you. You be the one to represent the people before God and bring their cases to Him. (20) Instruct them about the statutes and laws, and teach them the way to live and what they must do. (21) But you should select from all the people able men, God-fearing, trustworthy, and hating bribes. Place *them* over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. (22) They should judge the people at all times. Then they can bring you every important case but judge every minor case themselves. In this way you will lighten your load, and they will bear *it* with you. (23) If you do this, and God so directs you, you will be able to endure, and also all these people will be able to go home satisfied." (24) Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. (25) So Moses chose able men from all Israel and made them leaders over the people *as* commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. (26) They judged the people at all times; they would bring the hard cases to Moses, but they would judge every minor case themselves. (27) Then Moses said good-bye to his father-in-law, and he journeyed to his own land.

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