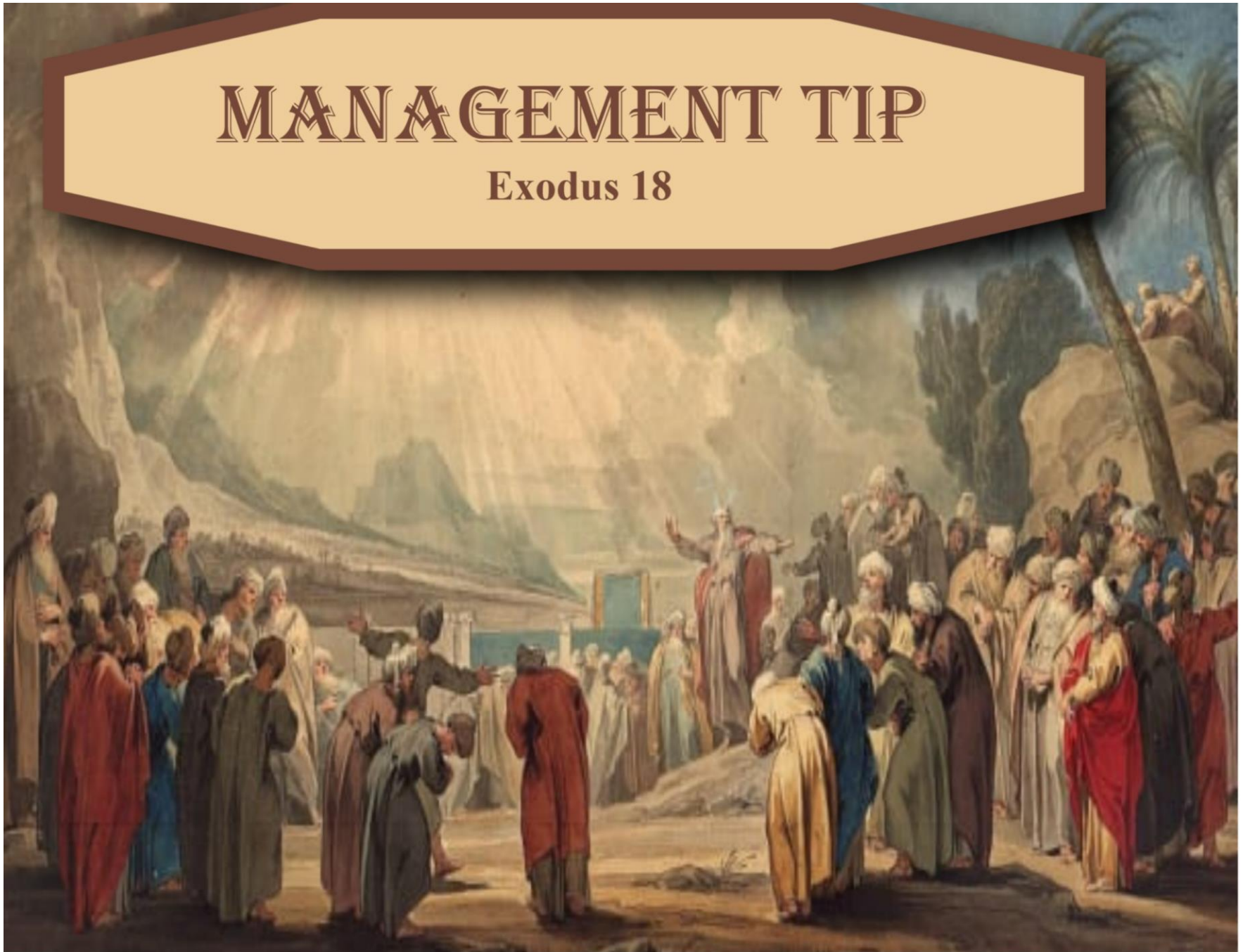


MANAGEMENT TIP

Exodus 18



Jethro was the priest of Midian. He was also Moses' father-in-law. Word of everything God did for Moses and for His chosen people, the children of Israel, had reached his ears. Especially that the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt.

Jethro prepared to take Zipporah, Moses' wife, back to him with her two sons. One son was named Gershom (meaning "I have been a stranger in a foreign land") and the other was named Eliezer (meaning "The God of my father was my help and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh").

Jethro sent word to Moses in the wilderness, where he was camped at the mountain of God, saying that he was coming with Moses' wife and her two sons.

Moses went out to meet Jethro. When they met, Moses greeted his family first, and then he bowed down and greeted Jethro. They asked each other about their well-being, and they went into the tent to talk. There, Moses told his father-in-law all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake. Moses told him of all the hardship that had come upon them on the way, and how the Lord had delivered them.





Jethro rejoiced at all the good the Lord had done for Israel.

Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods because in the very thing in which Egypt was so proud, He has shone Himself above them." Then Jethro took a burnt offering and other sacrifices to offer to God. Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

On the next day, Moses sat to judge the differences between the people. People stood before Moses from morning until evening. When Jethro saw what Moses did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?"

Moses said, "Because the people come to me to ask of God. When they have difficulties, they come to me, and I judge between one and another and I make known the statutes of God and His laws."

Jethro said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. Both you and the people will wear yourselves out. This is too much for you. You are not able to do this by yourself. Listen to my voice. I will give you advice and God will be with you. Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. You shall teach them the statutes and the laws and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. You shall select from all the people able men who fear God, men of truth who hate covetousness. Make them rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. Let them judge the people at all times. Then every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. It will be easier for you because they will bear the burden with you. If you do this and God commands you, you will be able to endure, and all the people will also have peace with it."





Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he said. 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. So, they judged the people. Only the hard cases were brought to Moses, but they judged every smaller case themselves.

After this, Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way to his own land.

