

# FAMILY REUNION

Exodus 18:1-27

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

July 10, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

## Introduction:

Family reunions. Here with m-i-l / f-i-l, Here with parents? Siblings? Great to have in church together. For some ... Family reunion's are taste of heaven. Ill. Susie conversation ... Longing family together. For others ... Family reunions are a taste of hell. Great Outdoors ... description. Whether long for or dread ... Family reunion great potential, wonderful opportunities ... Exodus, two men get saved, one a father-in-law and the other his son-in law. One named Jethro, the other named Moses. One saved from cultural spirituality, the other from an unsustainable life.

Please open your Bibles to Exodus 18. Page 53.

Fleeing from Egypt after murdering an Egyptian taskmaster, Moses spends 40 years on the back-side of the desert. While there, God was doing a work in his life. Introduced to f-i-l. Relationship. During those 40 years Moses grew spiritually; The names he gives his sons tell at least part of story ... Begins with remorse Gershom, alien. Eliezar, God is my helper ends with faith. Now as they reunite, returns wife and sons to Moses, Jethro hears what God has done.

## Read Exodus 18:1-12

After "bridegroom of blood" pronouncement by Zipporah Moses wife (circumcised their sons). X5. The family sent back to Midian as Moses goes to Egypt to face Pharaoh and deliver oppressed Israelites.

Father-in-law used 12 times in Exodus 18. Can't miss it, overreaching. 8 in the 1<sup>st</sup> 12 verses. Moses speaks Jethro 1) listens, 2) believes (now I know) ... **v. 11 No I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods ...** then he 3) worships. JETHRO GETS SAVED. Priest of Midian gets saved.

**Moses saves Jethro from a life of cultural spirituality.** ... all by telling the story of God's miraculous.

**Son-in-law has a powerful impact on father-in-law.**

Ill. The story of RUTH and Naomi. So impacted she would not leave her m-i-l, both saved. Matt GENEAL

40 years of observing Moses, saw him in a different light.

Relatives are the hardest ones to tell about God ... **Don't give up. Tell the story. Live the story.**

Ill. My grandfathers ... one in his 70's the other in his 80's. My sister Jan. Instrumental in their lives.

Our job is to tell the story, can't save anyone, only tell what God has done.

**Transition: v. 12 HINGE...** Reunion turned worship service (in presence of God) complete with offerings.

## Read Exodus 18:13-27

So many roles his head was spinning. Deliverer, speaker, leader, prayer, provider, protector, conflict resolver and now JUDGE. Didn't feel adequate, but no other choice. He had to engage.

Desperate people came to hear God's will, get a ruling on disputes. Ill. Like Judge Judy.

So many disputes; docket was overrun. Non-stop wear out.

JETHRO IS WATCHING ALL THIS, AND SEES THAT HIS S-I-L IS HEADING FOR A CRASH. Moses speaks to Jeth, now Jeth returns the favor. **Father-in-law has a powerful impact on son-in-law.**

While most in-laws are lousy listeners, not Moses. He is sinking and desperate. Once again the leader is tired ... Ex 17 sat on a rock and held up his hands. Ex 18 sits in the court.

LISTENS TO FATHER-IN-LAW ... Jethro speaks Moses listens. *“his advice was an act of kindness to an overworked man who couldn’t quite see how to ease the burden.”*

**Reflects that while Moses is doing things right, his load is keeping from doing the right things.**

**Jethro saves Moses from a life that is unsustainable.** UNSUSTAINABLE LIFE.

Ill. Just like you and me ... I’m amazed by you, sitting by patiently waiting for the 405 to stop. CARMEGE HURLING TOWARD burn-out. Unwilling to listen to your body, heart, mind, friend, God’s word. On a collision course.

**Don’t try and do it all. Choose others. Trust others.**

1. Don’t try and do it all. You think you can. Create your own crisis.

Going to have to say no to busyness, in order to say yes to God. Good at saying NO to God; He’ll undstnd.

FRANTIC ACTIVITY Missing the point ... women living unsustainable lives? ... Mary and Martha. LUKE 10 distracted. Busy doing good things, but misses the opportunity.

When are you going to realize that you can’t do it all. Not good, unhealthy. BURN OUT.

Self-care seems so selfish. Even Jesus disappeared to solitary places to pray, in back of the boat asleep.

Experts at exceeding our duty cycle. I’ve done it, you’ve done it, you are doing it. Crash and burn. Can’t sustain it forever. MUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

2. Choose others. Delegate. Find helpers. To pray for you (AARON AND HUR), to assist you, with gifts you don’t have. It’s good for them ... they get to use their gifts.

You really need the help of others ... you can’t do it alone, you won’t make it. JESUS HAD DISCIPLES.

Ill. Do, delegate, eliminate. So I can do what is most important.

3. Trust ... TRUST GOD TO USE OTHERS. Saving the world is not all on my back. Shared load.

Ill. relief when I realized some plant, others water, God produces and harvests fruit. 1 Cor 3 Not my job to save anyone, my job to give glory to God buy telling others and showing others what He’s done.

Moses shares the miraculous deliverance and Jethro, f-i-l gets meets the one true God.

Jethro Priest of Midian, saved from living a life of cultural spirituality.

Moses encouraged to turn a rat-race into a relay. Life no longer wearisome, worrisome.

All because of what happened at Moses family reunion.

Conclusion:
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Will you speak boldly of the MIRACLES God has done? Will you make it about God?

Will you take the time to do what’s most important for your soul ... Sustainable spiritual life is one that requires setting busyness aside so you can enter into the presence of Jesus.