

Sermon Notes

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen

“The Birth of Presbyterianism” – Exodus 18:13-27

I. Introduction.

A. Pastor Don’s early days.

1. Raised in a P _____ church.

B. What is it that charges people up about a given church?

1. Examples.

2. Comparisons to the human body.

II. Exposition.

A. Verse 13.

1. “Moses sat to judge the people.”

2. “Stood about Moses from morning till evening.”

a. Figure of speech.

B. Verse 14.

1. “What is this that you are doing for the people.”

a. Rhetorical question.

2. “Why do you alone sit as judge?”

a. Not a question over position of authority to do so.

C. Verses 15-16.

1. “To inquire of God.”

a. Divine insight or information.

b. Technical sense of word carries no hint of d_____.

2. “When you have a dispute, it comes to me.”

a. Moses becomes an adjudicator.

D. Verses 17-18.

1. “The thing you are doing is not good.”

a. Jethro is resolute.

2. “You will surely wear out.”

a. Emphatic language.

b. Currid.

1. Psalm 1:3.

3. “The task is too heavy.”

a. *Kābēd* → said of Pharaoh’s heart.

E. Verses 19-20.

1. “Now listen to me: I shall counsel . . .”

a. An incredible statement by Jethro and also an evidence for the authority of the Bible.

b. Midianites were arch-enemies of Israel.

2. “Teach them the statutes and law.”

a. Moses as a teacher – a Teaching Elder.

F. Verse 21.

1. Select able men, god-fearers, truth-lovers, haters of dishonest gain.”

a. Men of c_____.

2. “Place them over them.”

a. A j_____ hierarchy is established.

G. Verse 22.

1. Indicates dispersal of a burden.

H. Verses 23-24.

1. The counsel will help both Moses and the people.

I. Verses 25-27.

1. Moses chose able men.

a. Only serious disputes were brought to Moses.

III. Points for Reflection and Application.

A. Jethro’s counsel leads to the birth of the Elder office with ruling authority.

1. Exodus 3:18 indicates Elders were recognized before they were set apart for the office.

a. See also Ex. 3:16, 4:28, 12:21, 17:5-6.

2. Wisdom imparted but also j_____.

3. Our governmental system derives from this event as noted in Exodus.

4. The New Testament calls Elders P_____.

5. The Old Testament as well as New Testament establishes the office of Elder as a j_____ system.

a. The Greek word translated as elder – *presbuteros*.

1. Matthew 15:2.

b. *Presbuteroi* (Elders) who *episkapoi* (oversee).

1. Acts 20:17,28; Titus 1:5,7

B. The New Testament Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder office are clearly visible in Jethro's counsel.

1. Moses was a Teaching Elder.
2. Others served as Ruling Elders.

C. Presbyterian government is representative, but this representation is not of you.

1. Deuteronomy 1:13.
2. Representative form of government, but not a d_____.
3. Ryken.
4. EPC Book of order – It is the duty of the Ruling Elders to represent the _____.

D. Praise God for your Elders and obey them for it is right in the Lord.

1. I Timothy 5:17

“¹⁷ The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.”

2. I Thessalonians 5:12-13

“¹² But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,¹³ and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.”

3. Hebrews 13:17.

“¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep
watch
over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them
do
his with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable
for you.”