

Script - Jethro Helps Moses

Narrator: The people of Israel were excited to be free from being slaves in Egypt. In Egypt, their work was very hard and someone was always telling them what they had to do. God had freed the people of Israel from being slaves and had made Moses their leader. Moses told the people God's laws but there were so many people that needed help.

[Moses sitting at a table and people standing in line to speak to him]

Person 1: [angry] One of my neighbor's sheep strayed into my field and ate a bunch of my best grapes. That was wrong.

Person 2: I came and got my sheep. I was sorry. That is all I can do.

Moses: [to Person 2] No, you must make it right. You must make restitution. You must give back to your neighbor what your sheep ate, from the best of your vineyard.

[Moses motions for the next people]

Person 3: [upset] I let my neighbor borrow my ox to plow their field. I went back home. The ox died while they were plowing and now I don't have anything to work my field.

Person 4: [upset] That old ox would have died anyway. It is not my fault that it died.

Person 3: [angry] Yes you are. It is your fault.

Person 4: [angry] No its not. It was not my fault.

Moses: Quiet please. If a man borrows an animal from his neighbor and it is injured or dies while the owner is not present, he must make restitution. But if the owner is with the animal, the borrower will not have to pay.

Narrator: The people stood in line from morning to evening, waiting on Moses to decide their case. [pause] One day a messenger came to Moses

Messenger: [comes running in and bows] Your father-in-law Jethro says: "I am coming to you with your wife and her two sons."

[Jethro, Moses' wife and two sons come on the scene]

Moses: [gets up and goes to meet them] Greeting! [Bows very low] Welcome everyone! [they greet each other] Please, come into my tent. I want to tell you everything that has happened. God has delivered us from Egypt and kept us safe.

Narrator: Moses told Jethro all of the details about the 10 plagues on the Egyptians especially the last plague and the Passover. Moses told about crossing the Red Sea and how God had destroyed the Egyptian army.

Moses: God has given us food and water in the desert.

Jethro: Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for He did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly.

Narrator: The next day Moses took his seat to judge the people. Jethro watched as the people gathered in front of Moses' tent. They wanted Moses to decide their problems. The line quickly became very long. This was going to be another long day, telling the people God's rules.

Jethro: What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?

Moses: Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws.

Jethro: What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.

Moses: But what can I do?

Jethro: Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.

Moses: This is what I have been doing. It is very hard work.

Jethro: Select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.

Moses: That is a very good idea.

Jethro: If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

Narrator: Moses listened to the good advice from Jethro. Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

The End.