

Good Advice That Creates A Healthy Community



READ: Exodus 17:8-15

⁸ The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.

⁹ Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.”¹⁰ So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill.

¹¹ As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.

¹² When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.

¹³ So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

¹⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.”¹⁶ He said, “Because hands were lifted up against (to) the throne of the LORD, the LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.”

The LORD your God is going ahead of you.

He will fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt.

And you saw how the LORD your God cared for you all along the way as you traveled through the wilderness, just as a father cares for his child.

Deuteronomy 1:30-31

REFLECT: What creates a healthy faith (family) community?

What are most people in our culture starving for?

(Jesus) “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

A. A healthy community of faith relies on... _____



When can we expect the most battles to happen in our own life?

READ: Exodus 18

⁵ Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, together with Moses’ sons and wife, came to him in the wilderness, where he was camped near the mountain of God.

⁶ Jethro had sent word to him, “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 and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. ⁸ Moses told his father-in-law about everything the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel’s sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the Lord had saved them. (they relied on God’s power!)

⁹ Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the Lord had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians. ¹⁰ He said, “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.

¹¹ Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly.” ¹² Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses’ father-in-law in the presence of God.

WEEKLY STUDY CHALLENGE

¹³ The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. ¹⁴ When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "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?"

¹⁵ Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. ¹⁶ Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."

¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave.

²¹ But 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. ²² 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. ²³ If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

²⁴ Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. ²⁵ He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. ²⁶ They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

B. A healthy community of faith learns to ...

RESPOND: With all that you have to do and all the relationships you are connected with, HOW do you decide where to put your time and energy? What is your process for deciding your PRIORITIES?

The Profile of Shared Leadership

Find...

1. "Able (capable) people
2. Those who "fear God"
3. Those who are "trustworthy"
4. Those who have integrity, "they hate a bribe".

How does the above list fit you? What can you do to increase your capacity in these areas?

Who is God leading you to...

... engage...

... educate...

... equip...

... encourage...

... empower...

... energize...

... and elevate in your life?

Three reminders we learn in our journey through Exodus:

The redeemed remember...

1. ... How God works through ordinary human beings who are courageously willing to put their trust in Him to do what they could never accomplish on their own.
2. ... The opportunities that struggles and weakness provide to show you God's amazing strength and love.
3. ... The unique ways that God chooses accomplish his will and extend his mercy to us all in order to fully redeem us!