

Convent Avenue Baptist Church  
Wednesday Bible Study 7/14/10  
Rev. James B. Logan

**TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK**

Exodus 18: 13 – 27

Powerful quotes:

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish as fools”.  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“One person seeking glory doesn’t accomplish much. Success is the result of people pulling together to meet common goals”.  
John Maxwell

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In the preceding chapters of our main passage of study in Exodus, we learn that the Israelites were in slavery together, suffered together, many died together, witnessed plagues together while in Egypt, experienced the delivering power of God through the parting of the Red Sea together, celebrated victory together, ate together, murmured or complained together and fought their enemies together. But there were critical matters that required the leadership of Moses to serve as their judge. Up until Moses’ encounter with his father-in-law Jethro and the words of wisdom shared, Moses tried to handle a burdensome task all alone.

Domineering people who have poor reflective skills and lack common sense tend not to be good administrators. They burn out quickly, far before ministry actually launches from the pad. This type of ministry is hurting and even killing thousands of churches today. From reading the text, it seems Jethro already knew what this type of ministry could do to Moses and the people of Israel. Jethro knew that Moses had to learn quickly the art of delegation.

Jethro proposed a judicial system, distinct from the primitive practice of one-man adjudication. The proposal includes the recruitment of good people (v. 21); their training and preparation (v. 20); a system of courts for different social units (v. 21); a “high court” over which Moses would preside (v. 22); and continued affirmation that the entire system would be referred to the will of God (vv. 12, 23). Such a system will save Moses from burnout, and help the community maintain a better sense of stability and harmony. It is important that we surround ourselves with the right people in the right position to maximize their abilities in accomplishing team goals.

The moment Moses took the advice of Jethro he released other leaders to join him and lead according to their gifts. As a result you have the main goal of vision attained with everyone playing a part. (See also a New Testament reference in 1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 26 where the Spirit of God uses each of us and our gifts in the body of Christ.)

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Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

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The art of delegation and teamwork is used by Moses to make the dream work or provide godly counsel to the masses of people. Also notice seven changes Moses made in developing this team approach:

1. He strengthened his relationship with God ( v. 19)
2. He committed himself to communication (v. 20)
3. He laid out the vision (v. 20)
4. He developed a plan (v. 20)
5. He selected and trained the leaders (v. 21)
6. He released them to do the work (v. 22)
7. He did only what they could not do (v. 22)