

In the Presence of God:

Read Ex. 18:1-27:

Jethro or Reuel?:

1. Remember back in Ex. 2, when Moses saved some shepherds? See Ex. 2:17-22. What name did Moses give his son? What is the name of the father of the shepherds?
 - a.
 - b.
2. Now consider Ex. 18:2-4. Who are the sons here? But who is said to be the father-in-law? What's going on here?
 - a.
 - i. Reuel:
 - 1.
 - ii. Jethro:
 - 1.
3. What isn't speculation is the placement of this man within the narrative. Notice: what happens each time after this man (whether named Reuel or Jethro) appears? See Ex. 3:1-2; 19:3, 16-19, and especially 19:20. (Hint: Jethro appears in Ex. 2:18 [as "Reuel"] and 18:12 [as "Jethro"])
 - a. First:
 - i.
 - b. Second:
 - i.

A God, Heard of and Spoken About:

1. See Ex. 3:18. Just as the elders of Israel listened to Moses, who else heard about the LORD through Moses? See Ex. 18:1. How did he hear from Moses? See Ex. 18:2.
 - a.
 - b.
2. Yet here, the listening takes a turn. What is it that Moses heard from his father-in-law? See Ex. 18:6, 19-23. What kind of men does Jethro suggest Moses get for the job?
 - a.
 - b.
3. How does Moses respond to such a command as "Now obey my voice..."? See Ex. 18:24-26.
 - a.

Why Did Moses Need This Advice?

1. What is it that Moses was doing? Why did Jethro suggest he get helpers? See Ex. 18:13-17, especially 18:18.
 - a.
2. Who else mentioned that Moses was a judge? See. Ex. 2:14. How did that man's complaint become a reality?
 - a.

3. How did the other part of this man's statement come true, namely: "...as you killed the Egyptian..." (from Ex. 2:14)? What did God do to the Egyptians through Pharaoh? Hint: consider the Red Sea episode.

- a.

God on the Mountain:

Have someone read (5-6 mins)

Read Exodus 19:1-25:

1. What is the first thing God says his people should do? See Ex. 19:4-6. How do the people respond? See Ex. 19:7-8.
 - a.
2. In the relationship between God and people, who is the one who closes the distance? See Ex. 19:9-11.
 - a.
3. Considering the way God also acted through Moses, what does this say about how our God operates? Considering Moses' work, what else have we learned about how God operates?
 - a.
 - b.
4. Again, consider God: what do you learn about God from Ex. 19:12-15, 20-24? There are at least two things.
 - a.
 - b.

The Relationship Between God and His People:

Read Ex. 20:1-21:

1. First, consider Ex. 3:12, 4:23, 7:16, 8:1,20; 9:1, 13; 10:3,7; 12:31. What was at least one reason God delivered his people? Consider Ex. 3:12 again. Did God keep good on his word? Remember... the people are on a mountain -- Mt. Sinai, and what are they here to do?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Consider Ex. 1:13 in the King James Translation: "And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to *servew* with rigour:" The ESV of this verse takes it as "to work as slaves." Either way, do you see the connection between how the people lived under Pharaoh and how they will live under God? What does this tell us when we are tempted to think that the Exodus was all about individual freedom? Paul picks up on this in Romans 6:6-7, 15-23. What does this say about your relationship with God?
 - a.
 - b.
3. What does this service look like? There are two sides of it. Consider the first side in Ex. 20:1-2. What is the second side of their service to God? See Ex. 20:3-17. Note especially 20:5

- a.
- b.
- 4. How do the people respond to God when he comes to them and speaks? See Ex. 20:18-19. How is this similar to the way God speaks through his people today?
 - a.
 - b.
- 5. What is Moses' word of counsel? See Ex. 20:20.
 - a.

Take Away: (2 mins)

- 1. This week, I urge you to meditate on God's revelation at Mt. Sinai and how he worked through Moses to get his people to this point.
- 2. I also urge you to consider how you have been delivered from another house of slavery, namely the house of sin. Always remember how Jesus Christ's atoning death has delivered you from that service and given you a new life and new service under God.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for being our God. How incredible is it that you revealed yourself to the Israelites through your wonders and signs, through delivering them from the Egyptians, and at Mount Sinai. Just so, you revealed yourself even to we, who are Gentiles, through Jesus Christ. Thank you for delivering us also from sin in Christ. Help us to be reminded of this this week. In Jesus' name, amen.