

## *Your Trials Lead To Your Best Blessings*

**Ex. 2:15-25** If Egypt was the high school for Moses, the Midian desert was a graduate school that God used to turn an **outlaw** into the leader of a slave liberation movement. God used Moses environment to shape Moses life just as He is using your surroundings to shape yours. The main influence God used to shape Moses' heart was Jethro, the Midianite priest. Not only did Jethro give Moses a lady to marry, AND A JOB, Jethro also served as a male role model in Moses' life. God uses your spouse AND your job to bring out the best and worst in you. Jethro was the father that Moses never had. You remember that Moses' father could not defend him or actively participate in his life. Moses' father could not be a man in Moses' life. Moses had been cared for and rescued by women who protected him from men who wanted to destroy his life. This is still a vital role for mothers to play. Do not allow your son or daughters to play with men or women with perverted desires - either the desire to kill or the desire to pervert.

Jethro was able to support Moses' life by supporting Moses' call into serving others. When God called Moses' through a burning bush, it could have become a major source of embarrassment. Can you imagine explaining to your father-in-law or to someone taking care of you that you feel the need to walk away from your job and rescue several million slaves because of a discussion you had with a burning bush? Surely Moses had to convince his wife and father-in-law that he needed to follow a new direction in his life. Sometimes, God speaks to your heart in a way that others may not understand or appreciate. Yet, Jethro must have blessed Moses in his new endeavor. You do not find any complaint from Jethro about taking care of Moses' family while he was away.

**Ex. 18:1-27** Why didn't God say something to Moses about his poor leadership activities? God did speak to Moses by using the wisdom and experience God had placed in Jethro. Moses was about to stall in the desert through a lack of delegated and responsible leaders. In verse 21-22, you will find the qualifications for leadership.

**Who are your Mr. and Mrs. Jethro's?** Your Jethro's are gifts from God to give you encouragement, support and guidance. **Usually they are outsiders.** They appear during times of self-doubt. They are present to assist you as you are becoming more focused on YOUR MISSION - YOUR REASON FOR BEING ALIVE.

The strongest community in Moses life was probably in his Midianite family. They nurtured him. The impact of their influence can be seen in the names of his children. The first-born was named Gershom - signaling that Moses had found a home even though he was an alien in a foreign land. The name of the second son was Eliezer - reflecting Moses gratitude at being rescued from Pharaoh's sword. **Ex. 13:2-4** God had delivered Moses FROM Egypt and delivered him TO Jethro's family.

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