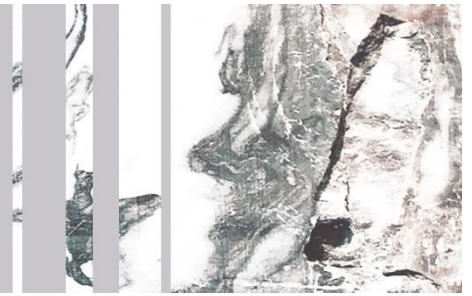


# EXODUS

## Daily Devotions Week 9



### DAY 1

#### Read Exodus 18.

One of the first things Jethro does when he enters the camp of Israel is celebrate. He celebrates what God has done for his people. There is something to be said about rejoicing over our victories and looking back at the good things God has done in our faith story. As a nation, we only have a few holidays celebrating different occasions. In some countries, like Cambodia or Sri Lanka, there are 25+ different public holidays! We celebrate some holidays, like the fourth of July, to commemorate the independence of our nation, or Thanksgiving, when we give thanks for all the ways that God has provided for us in the form of a meal. God called the Israelite nation to celebrate. Actually, there are several places in Exodus where God calls his people to celebrate their freedom from their Egyptian oppressors.

It's important to remember that celebration is worship to God. When we celebrate, we are reminded of God's faithfulness to us in different seasons of life. What's even more exciting to hear is God wants to be with us in celebrating victories. Adele Ahlberg Calhoun writes this about God:

*"God celebrates. He invented delight, joy, and celebration... whether solemn or exhilarating, formal or spontaneous, celebration can enlarge our capacity to enjoy and serve God. Celebrating God does not depend on perfect circumstance or happy feelings."*

#### Read Romans 12:11-15, 1 Corinthians 12:26, Psalm 16:7, 7, 9, 11.

Where are you most prone to celebrate God? Alone? With others? In worship? In music? In nature? Why?

What does this tell you about how God made you and how you most naturally meet with him?

How is your celebration enhanced or curtailed by your ability to remember the past, live in the moment, or anticipate the future?

What are some new ways you can celebrate?

What would it look like to for you to celebrate with others?

**Spend some time in prayer thanking God for his faithfulness to you and ask who you can share this with.**

## DAY 2

### Re-read Exodus 18.

Describe the relationship between Moses and Jethro. Why is what Jethro shares with Moses so important?

Who do you know now that exemplifies who you want to be?

How has the presence of someone in your life enabled you to do something you could never have done on your own?

Take a mental review. Think back over your life, writing down the names of those who believed in you and mentored you. What happened to you because of their presence in your life? (Feel free to let that person know what they have done for you!)

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When have you empowered another person to succeed, grow, or develop? What was that like for you? For the other person?

If you are not mentoring someone, what is keeping you back from doing so?

You don't have to be older than someone or even have your life all put together to be a mentor. Mentoring is recognizing raw potential in others as well as a willingness to be taught. Mentors believe giving away time, gifts, treasure, teaching, and power can influence and shape others for the sake of the kingdom. Mentoring is passing on what you have to another person.

**Spend some time in prayer. Talk to God about any hesitations you have about mentoring another person. Ask him what he is calling you to do.**

## **DAY 3**

### **Silence**

Spend 10 or more minutes listening to God. What is God inviting you into? What is distracting you from your relationship with him?

### **Re-Read Exodus 18.**

After Jethro learned how Moses shepherded the needs of the Jewish nation, he encouraged Moses to make changes to save himself and the people. Moses did not recognize his foolishness in his decision to guide the people on his own, and chose to heed the advice of Jethro. Moses is teachable in this moment—he acknowledges that his way isn't the best way and is open to another's input. There is power in being a lifelong learner and admitting we don't have all the answers. Believe it or not, when we are teachable, we are opening ourselves up to a new work of the Holy Spirit.

What new things have you learned about God and yourself in the last month?  
What positions have you reconsidered or changed your mind about in the last few years?  
How do you respond to opinions that are different than yours?

### **Read Proverbs 9:9, 12:1, 13:18, 25:12; Psalm 141:5.**

What do you do when you can't fully explain something? Are you comfortable saying "I don't know"?  
Are you able to let someone teach you who isn't in authoritative role over you?  
Ask some of the people who know you best how they perceive you. Are you open and teachable? What changes can you make?

**Spend some time in prayer asking God to open your eyes so that you may allow the Holy Spirit to work in a new way.**

## DAY 4

### Re-Read Exodus 18.

Life is full of struggles and challenges, much of which are out of our control. However, we can control how we respond to these scenarios. One of the things that we notice about Moses in these passages is the way he responds to Jethro's advice. He could have easily responded with pride and defensiveness towards the role God specifically gave him... but he didn't. Self-preservation is a natural response to criticism, as we desire to present the best version of ourselves and our abilities. We often find value and misplace our identity in what other's think of us. In our culture, humility can be viewed as weakness or passiveness. This is not true humility. While humility removes the attention from yourself and it redirects your power, it also presupposes your dignity. In fact, humility requires a great deal of strength and boldness.

There is no one who better models this than Jesus. He made himself nothing so God could become everything to all people. This was also abundantly apparent in his mercy and kindness.

Who in your life tells you truth without praise or blame?

What do you admire about humble people?

How do you respond to correction?

How do you recognize true humility?

Do you feel the need to be seen and heard by others? Why or why not?

In what areas of your life are you lacking humility? What is holding you back?

What things do you find your identity in? How are they competing with Christ for your identity?

**Read Philippians 2:3-8, Matthew 20:25-28, James 3:13-14.**

**Spend some time praying over the phrase: "You are the potter, I am the clay."**

## DAY 5

In Exodus 18, Moses didn't allow pride to swell up within him due to his position or prominence. He pursued humility.

**As you're praying, ask God to reveal anything that keeps you from him. Begin with this prayer:**

"God, I am far too often influenced by what others think of me. I am always pretending to be either richer or smarter or nicer than I really am. Please prevent me from trying to attract attention. Don't let me gloat over praise on one hand or be discouraged by criticism on the other. Nor let me waste time weaving imaginary situations in which the most heroic, charming, witty person present is myself. Show me how to be humble of heart, like you."

What about this prayer do you find to be true of you?

What does it look like to let God be the one who gives you worth and value? Have you experienced this before? What made this possible?

Who is the center of your world? How do others play into that? How do others play a role in you becoming more like Christ?

What are sources of pride for you? What about these things makes you proud? How do you think God is calling you to think about the things that make you prideful?