

March 5, 2021

Read Exodus 18

Key verse: Exodus 18:17-18

*Moses' father-in-law said to him, 'What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.'*

## **Teamwork**

My motto used to be, "If you want something done right, do it yourself." Part of the reason I believed this was because I didn't trust others get the job done, so I would take the time to learn whatever it was – car repair, home maintenance, electrical soldering, etc. The result was that I had quite a few unfinished projects.

But the cause of my do-it-yourself mindset was, in part, my lack of trust in others. There will always be those who disappoint us, who don't get the job done right and lose our trust, but there are also those who can get the job done a thousand times better than we can. And so we have to have faith in others, that they can accomplish what we need them to accomplish.

It seems like Moses was a do-it-yourselfer, settling every dispute between the Israelites by himself. The problem was that he didn't have time to do anything else, and the people were still a long way from the Promised Land.

As a church, we need to trust one another to do the things that churches are supposed to do. There will be disputes, as there were between the Israelites, and there need to be people "who fear God, are trustworthy, and hate dishonest gain," people besides the pastor who are adept at reconciling differences between members so that we as a people don't get stuck in one place. We have a mission that goes beyond resolving interpersonal relationship issues between members; we need to keep our eyes on our mission – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – and to make our way to that Promised Land.

When we trust one another with the tasks of the church, we discover one another's gifts. This in turn inspires us toward greater goals as we imagine what we are truly capable of achieving as a team. The philosopher Aristotle observed that "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." This is certainly true of the church. God has equipped us to do amazing things!

**Prayer:** Lord God, you created us not just to need each other but also to *compliment* each other. Thank you for the brilliance of this design! Help us to see the beauty and the gifts in one another, and as a church help us to envision the mission that you have set for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.