"CALLED TO LEAD, CALLED TO SHARE THE BURDEN"

SERIES BREAK

WORD

Listen to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. But select capable men from all people, men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain– and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

Exodus 18:19-21, 23
(Read also Exodus 18)

SPARKS

- Have you experienced being in a group project in school or at work where all the load, research and reporting was done by only you? If yes, what was the result?
- What's the small action your leader (it could be your father, mother, older sister, older brother, grandparent, Pastor/small group leader, boss) has done to help you but significantly influence your life and your direction?
- Do you believe you are called to lead?

There was a family reunion when Jethro, the father in law of Moses came with his family- Ziporah, the wife of Moses and their two sons. Moses told Jethro all the mighty things God made to save them and set the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt. Jethro was so amazed on how God's power and faithfulness to Israelites that they were saved from the hands of Pharaoh. Jethro brought a burnt offering as a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God. Aaron and the elders came to eat a meal with them. They brought their fellowship in the presence of God as they feast and rejoice. The following day, Jethro observed Moses as he dealt with the people's matters. Jethro noticed that Moses handled the work alone. So he showed Moses that his deep love and dedication to serve God through the Israelites also need wisdom, structure, capable people, and shared responsibility. God called Moses to lead the people, but it is not His will to get him overworked and exhausted. Let's see what problem Jethro identified in the way Moses handled the concerns and issues of the people, what is his Godly advice to help Moses not wear out, and what the result.

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1. THE PROBLEM: ALONE AS JUDGE

Exodus 18:14c
"Why do you alone sit as a Judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening."

People come to Moses to seek God's will when they bring their disputes to him. Then he teaches them God's laws and instructions. Moses also shows them the way they are to live and how to behave. But Jethro directly told Moses that what he's doing is not good because doing it alone is too heavy for him and it will wear himself out. (see Exodus 18:17-18)
Have you experienced doing everything alone because you thought that's what good leaders/parents should do?

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2. THE SOLUTION: SHARING THE BURDEN

Exodus 18:19, 21
"Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. (Exodus 18:19) Select capable men from all the people. men who fear God, trustworthy men and hate dishonest gain and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundred, fifties, and tens."

Jethro advised Moses to share the burden to selected men who are capable of handling smaller groups. They will serve as Judge for simple cases and the only difficult cases will be handled by Moses. In Mark 3:13-14 where Jesus also selected and called capable men, the twelve disciples that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons just as what Jesus is doing. Jesus also shared the burden to them. Have you got to the point that what you're doing wears you out? It would mean the work is too heavy for you and it's time to select capable men/women to share the burden.

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3.THE RESULT: LIGHTER LOAD FOR THE LEADER

Exodus 18:22c-23

"That will make your load lighter because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all the people will go home satisfied."

Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. Moses did not wear out himself by being the only one Judge. Since the load is not heavy he goes home satisfied. The people did not wear out themselves in the long line up waiting for their turn to be heard and to be helped, instead, they too, went home satisfied.
No leader will wear out when the burden is shared with others. God called each one of us to lead others but it is not His will for you to become exhausted, He wants your load to be lighter.
Have you experienced being helped by others?

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LIVE IT!

- Look at your life this week. What burden are you carrying alone that you have to delegate?
- If you know anyone who is not part of a small group/JGroup yet, invite them to join and learn how to live and behave according to God's will.
- If you are a leader who tends to do it all, then stop, you don't need to do it alone, it's time to share the burden to other capable members.

PRAYER

- Thank God for giving His son Jesus who saved you from slavery to sin.
- Thank God for He chose you to lead your family and friends.
- Thank God for the Jethro in your life who took time to visit you and gave you wisdom in handling your work for the Lord.
- Praise God for blessing you with people who are trustworthy, who are reliable and loyal.
- Thank God for all the victories and favors you received in your life.

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