

Moses and Jethro

The story of Moses and his father-in-law Jethro shows that we can have a great relationship with our in-laws ☺ There are some good examples for us to follow and some practical lessons we can learn from this inspiring story.

Key Characters

Jethro (aka Reuel): Respected Priest of Midian. Father of Zipporah and Father-in-Law of Moses.

Zipporah: Daughter of Jethro who marries Moses. She and Moses had two sons.

Moses: Considered one of the “greats” of Israelite and biblical history. Spent first 40 years growing up as an Egyptian prince, and received all the many benefits of that upbringing (formal education, practical learning, luxuries and privileges, etc.). At age 40 killed an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite, and ended up in exile in Midian where he met and married Zipporah and spent 40 years as a nomad shepherd. At age 80, God called him and used him to free the Israelites from Egyptian captivity. He spent his last 40 years leading the Jews in the wilderness where he prepared them to enter the Promised Land under the leadership on his mentee Joshua.

Key Scriptures for the story:

Acts 7:20-36 Provides a broad overview of Moses life

Hebrews 11:24-28 Speaks to Moses’ heart. What was important to Moses?

Exodus 2:11-25; 3:1; 4:18 We meet Jethro and Zipporah. What are the key observations we can make? _____

Exodus 18:1-27 Jethro gives Moses some wise advice, Moses listens and acts on it, and the 2 million Israelites receive the benefit! What was the key message of Jethro’s advice to Moses? _____
What observations can we make?

Some Key Lessons for Us Today:

- 1) We can’t do it all!
- 2) No matter how educated and experienced we are, we don’t know everything and need good advice to be more successful in life. A great person takes advice.
- 3) We need advice and support from wise and caring mentors (even our Father-in-law!). Who we take advice from is important.
- 4) Humility is extremely important to build great relationships.
- 5) Having a great personal relationship leads to benefits to other people.
- 6) _____
- 7) _____