

# Exodus 18:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people—**

The transition from worship (v.12) to governance shows proper priority: worship before work. Moses' judging role fulfills God's commission to speak His words to people (Ex 4:15-16). The phrase 'the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening' indicates overwhelming demand—cases queued all day. This exhaustive schedule reveals the burden of leadership and unsustainability of solo ministry. The verb 'to judge' (לִשְׁפֹּט, lishpot) includes deciding disputes and declaring God's statutes. Moses' all-day judging shows dedication but also organizational naivety—he hasn't implemented delegation. Jethro's observation and advice (vv.14-23) will correct this deficiency.

## Historical Context

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This judging likely involved applying God's revealed will (received at burning bush and through ongoing revelation) to specific cases. The absence of written law yet didn't prevent judicial function.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does worship preceding governance teach about priorities in leadership?
2. How does Moses' exhaustive schedule reveal both commendable dedication and unwise lack of delegation?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי	מִמָּחָר ת	וַיָּשֶׁב	מֹשֶׁה ה	לִשְׁפֹּט ט	אֶת	
H1961	And it came to pass on the morrow	sat	by Moses	to judge	H853	
	H4283	H3427	H4872	H8199		
וְהָעָם	וַעֲמָד	וְהָעָם	עַל	מֹשֶׁה ה	מִן	הַבֹּקֶר
and the people	stood	and the people	H5921	by Moses	H4480	from the morning
H5971	H5975	H5971		H4872		H1242
עַד	הָעֶרֶב:					
H5704	unto the evening					
	H6153					

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