

# Exodus 18:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?

## Analysis

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**And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people?**—Jethro's question 'What is this thing?' shows his concern at the unsustainable system. His observation 'thou sittest thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee' identifies the problem: centralized leadership without delegation. The phrase 'from morning unto even' emphasizes the exhaustion for both Moses and people. Jethro's willingness to question Moses' methods models the proper role of advisors—speaking truth to leadership. His approach is respectful (asking questions) rather than presumptuous (demanding change). The fact that God validates Jethro's advice shows that wisdom can come from outside covenant community, and leaders should welcome counsel.

## Historical Context

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Jethro's outsider perspective gave him clarity that those within the situation lacked. His Midianite governance experience equipped him to identify organizational problems Moses missed.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jethro's questioning approach model how to offer counsel to leaders respectfully?
2. What does God validating Jethro's advice teach about receiving wisdom from unexpected sources?

## Interlinear Text

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ה וְאַשְׁר כֹּל אֲתָּה מְשַׁחַת | תִּירָא  
saw father in law And when Moses H853 H3605 H834 H1931  
H7200 H2859 H4872

עֲשָׂה בָּעַל מְשַׁחַת | אָמַר  
all that he did thou thyself alone and all the people he said H4100  
H6213 H5971 H559

כַּי-זֶה אֲשֶׁר בָּעַל מְשַׁחַת |  
What is this thing H2088 H834 H859 all that he did H6213  
H1697

וַיֹּשֶׁב אֲשֶׁר מִדְבָּר בְּעַל מְשַׁחַת |  
thou thyself alone and all the people why sittest H905 H3605  
H5971 H4069 H859 H3427

בְּקָר מִל נְצָב עַל יְבָנֶיךָ |  
thou thyself alone and all the people by thee from morning H1242  
H5971 H5324 H4480

עַד עַרְבָּה:  
H5704 unto even H6153