

# Exodus 18:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

## Analysis

**If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure**—Jethro's conditional 'if...God command thee so' (וְאֵת אֱלֹהִים) shows wisdom: he offers counsel but defers to divine confirmation. This humility models that human advice, however sound, requires divine validation. The promise 'thou shalt be able to endure' (וְיָקַח תִּשְׁעַד, v'yakholta amod, literally 'you will be able to stand') addresses sustainability—proper structure enables longevity. The additional promise 'and all this people shall also go to their place in peace' (וְגַם כָל-הָעָם הַזֶּה עַל-מִקְומָו יָבֹא בְשָׁלוֹם) means people will receive justice promptly and return home satisfied. Good structure serves both leader and people.

## Historical Context

Moses would later recount this counsel as coming from God's approval (Deuteronomy 1:9-18), confirming that Jethro's advice aligned with divine will. Wise counsel and divine command converged.

## Related Passages

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jethro's deference to God's command model the proper humility of counselors?
2. What does 'able to endure' teach about structure's role in sustainable ministry?

## Interlinear Text

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אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה אֶת אֵת  
H518 H853 this thing H2088 If thou shalt do command and God  
H1697 H6213 H6680 H430

עַמְּךָ כָּל יְגִמְּעַמְּךָ כָּל יְגִמְּעַמְּךָ  
thee so then thou shalt be able to endure and all this people H2088  
H3201 H5975 H1571 H3605 H5971

בְּשַׁלּוּמָה יְבָא מִלְּקָמָם וְעַל  
to their place shall also go in peace H7965 H935 H4725 H5921

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 18:18** (Parallel theme): Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.