

How to Take the Right Decision Part 9

How the Church Helps the People

How to take the right decision is similar to the question of how the church helps the people. Here in this message we will use a Scripture from the Old Testament, ***Exodus 18:13-25***, that speaks about the leadership of Moses over the Israelites and we will study from that the more precise rules for the church leadership and how to help the people of God to take the right decision.

“13 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.” (Exodus 18:13 KJV) The Israelites were around 2-3 millions in population and Moses was alone to work as a judge to help them to decide and determine what they needed to do. You see here how the people were so attached with Moses who was ordained by God to lead them and help them to take the right decision in life. **You see also how Moses was so eager to help the people and to aid them in their decisions. There was interaction between God and Moses, and between Moses and the people. God wants to see the same interaction in the church today.**

“14 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?” (Exodus 18:14 KJV) Here the father in law of Moses when saw that Moses was alone with the people and there was no one else to help him, he told him, ***“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?”*** With such language he was admonishing Moses that he should not do that alone but to raise other people with him to do the same work and to extend the government body to more people so the task will be easy and the burden will be less on Moses being the leader, and will be less on the people. When it said, ***“and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even”***, it means he was spending long time with the people and it was a long process and a strain on him and on the people. As we are reviewing the Scripture we can conclude the following rules of the church leadership in helping the people to take the right decision.

1. Help the people to enquire of God: “15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God:” (Exodus 18:15 KJV) Here clearly stated by Moses that the people were coming to him seeking to enquire and asking of God the things that they were in need to know. **One of the prime responsibilities of the church leader is to help the people to know God's will and to direct them and to discipline them to do it.** The church leader should be the bridge for such a purpose as we can read here: ***“8 If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose; 9 And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment: 10 And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall***

shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: 11 According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left ” (Deuteronomy 17:8-11) That is all to secure that the people of God will know God's will and to do it and that is the responsibility of the church leadership and their authority. If the church fails to do that then the church had failed the Lord and the task that had entrusted with.

As well as, certain times there are difficult cases to decide that is why God put the trained judges with His Word to decide for the people of what they need to do so that God's will shall be fulfilled and the Lord shall be pleased with His people. People will not be able to do that alone, that is why God put the church authority to do that and help the people with.

The Lord also supported the church with authority when He said, ***“12 And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. 13 And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.” (Deuteronomy 17:12-13 KJV)*** That support goes along Jesus' Word in ***Matthew 18:15-17***, of how to deal with sin, so the people will listen to the church authority: ***“15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”*** So those who do not listen to the church that speaks the Word of God they will be considered as non believers.

God also commanded the judges to be righteous in judgment: ***“Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.” (Leviticus 19:15 KJV)*** The judge should not favor the people for any reason, but he should follow the instructions of God's Word.

2. To judge: To judge is to decide between one with another and give to everyone his rights and what is due for him. Moses said to his father in law, ***“and I judge between one and another.” (Exodus 18:16 KJV)*** In order to judge the church should show the people and help them to know what is right and what is wrong. The responsibility of the church is to teach the people what is Godly and what is ungodly and teach them to differentiate between the holy and the common as the Word of God instructs us, ***“And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.” (Ezekiel 44:23 KJV)***

The following is one example about the decision making and the right thing that the people need to do: ***“1 Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them. 2 If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. 3 If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he***

shall go out by himself. 5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: 6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.” (Exodus 21:1-6 KJV) The church is to teach the people the various laws and to bring them to the Scriptures that will help them to know their privileges and their duties so they will be aware of various issues and how to be solved.

“22 If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.” (Exodus 21:22 KJV) If abortion followed after the trauma, then the woman's husband put a certain fine that the offender needed to pay as finally the judge would determine.

This is another issue and its judgment. You entrusted someone with something and he lost it: *“7 If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found, let him pay double. 8 If the thief be not found, then the master of the house shall be brought unto the judges, to see whether he have put his hand unto his neighbour's goods. 9 For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbour.” (Exodus 22:7-9 KJV)* Whatever the problem and the issue people facing we bring them to the Scripture that deal with the same issue and expound it to them and give them the way to implement God's will and decision.

“16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.” (Exodus 18:16 KJV) Here Moses made it clearer that the people come to him because of certain matters, issues and troubles that needed to be solved, and there were things that he needed to judge between one and another, and he stated that he was doing that by making them know the Word of God and His laws that will make them understand God's will and what He needed from them and how to proceed in solving certain issues and what were the rights of each one of them that will help to settle their disputes.

“17 And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.” (Exodus 18:17 KJV) What Moses was doing was good, but it was not good because he was doing it alone and bearing all the pressure by himself. *When you carry the responsibility alone, you will have more pressure.* Jesus said, *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* The church that God had placed you in is the body of Christ and the church leaders are there to help the people to carry their burdens in life and how to manage them. They are here to help you. When the people come with their problems to the church who is the body of Christ, they are coming to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

“18 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.” (Exodus 18:18 KJV) What he was telling him that doing that alone will weary himself and the

people with him. As well as his further explanation made it clear that the load should be shared so it will not be heavy to carry, and at this point we can grasp the need for the church in helping the people to make the right decision so that their heavy burden will be less. People in their troubles will need a trust worthy person who will help them to give them Godly solution to solve their troubles, to pray for them and to guide them.

“19 Harken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:” (Exodus 18:19 KJV) Here the father in law of Moses confirmed in his counsel that Moses was the leader appointed by God, and he was to lead the people toward God, that he will bring their problems, disputes to God to lead them to take the right decision to be in the perfect will of God. *The same now in the New Testament, the Church of God leaders should do the same for the people and help them in their struggles in life and equip them to take right decisions.*

3. Help the people to decide: “20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.” (Exodus 18:20 KJV) As a church we do that by teaching them the Word of God and His decrees and instructions that will help them to take the right decision.

4. Show the people the way to live: “20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.” (Exodus 18:20 KJV) * The church should teach the people the style of life that they need to follow. This responsibility is to teach them to go through the narrow gate and the narrow way that lead to life, *“14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:14 KJV)* * The narrow gate and the narrow way are restriction, suffering and pain, but it leads to life. * We need to teach the people and show them the way they work, the way they live, the way to spend money, the way they behave with people, the way to serve God, the way to be good citizen, the way to have family, the way to be good parents and the way to take care of children and discipline them, etc.

5. To show the people their duties and work they need to achieve: “20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.” (Exodus 18:20 KJV) * Man according to the Word of God had different responsibilities and duties directed toward God, his family, the church, his work, toward the society, the nation and the country that he lives in. The church responsibility is to show and give to each individual of the people of God a clear list of his or her responsibilities they he or she needs to perform. * The church leader should sit with each member of his congregation and give a clear list of responsibilities that he or she needs to achieve. Teaching them the particular duties that they need to do and their particular responsibilities. This is dictation, and the people hate that, but God ordained it for the people's wellbeing and safety.

6. To select capable men from all the people: “21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.” (Exodus 18:21 KJV) That was what Moses exactly did: *“15 So I took the*

chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes. 16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. 17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.” (Deuteronomy 1:15-17 KJV) What Moses did was the command of God to do such, “18 Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.” (Deuteronomy 16:18 KJV)

** This is the real responsibility for the church to select capable men with strict criteria to serve as judges and leaders over others who are in faith. Those selected leaders need to fear God, living in the truth, honest, hating dishonest gain and hating covetousness. * As well as, the responsibility of the church is to raise the next generation and future leaders to lead the flocks into all God's promises. Jesus trained the seventy two disciples and the twelve apostles, later on the apostles trained others to lead. Paul said to Timothy the following: “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2 KJV) So as we received instructions and got trained, we need to teach, disciple, and train others who will be able to teach and make disciples who are capable to train others.*

“22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.” (Exodus 18:22 KJV) This is the instructions to the appointed judges that they will judge for the people and help them to walk into correct decision, but the great matter they should bring to Moses, because that will reduce the stress on them, and that they will handle such great cases in a better way and with less tension and no mistakes. While the small cases they can do alone because small matters will not bring stress on them, and that is how they will help Moses. Handling big cases alone will lead them to do mistakes and may take wrong decisions so they needed to bring to Moses.

“23 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.” (Exodus 18:23 KJV) Here when Moses will share the responsibility in the right way, the burden and the pressure will be less on him. As well as when the church members share their burdens with the church leaders the burden will be less on them because another person will carry with them by giving them the Word of God, the will of God, by praying for them and direct them and discipline them to do what God wants from them to do.

“24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.” (Exodus 18:24 KJV) Moses obeyed and was blessed. “25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.” (Exodus 18:25 KJV) Moses assigned leaders on groups, and the sizes of the groups were different. In the same way the groups or the congregations in the church are different in size but the principle of the

government is the same, that there should be a trust worthy leaders who will follow the instructions and report the big cases before taking any decision. We as Church of God UAE, we follow such in our leadership.

Also for you now if you will obey and open your life to the church leader then he will inform you about the will of God and you will be blessed.

The church is a highly organized living structure composed of human and that is we and also of divine where God dwells among us in the Holy Spirit, and Jesus is the head of the church. God govern His church with His Word and give big responsibility and task to the church leaders as well as give them authority to help them in their service to God and toward His people.

***My dear and beloved:** Let us come to the Lord. Humble down before God and accept what the Lord had ordained for you to do. Accept to be within the set up of the system that God had placed you in, to inquire of Him and receive the justice of God in various issues and disputes, to come to the church leaders and inquire from them about the truth of God's Word, and accept and implement their decision and their guidance. Let us commit ourselves as a church to help the people and to teach them God's Word and help them to take the right decision that pleases God in their lives.*

Come now to the Lord in repentance, renounce your sins and your ways and commit yourself fully to the Lord and to the Word that you received today and follow and abide with the teaching of God and the ordinances that He had placed for you to take the right decision, so your burden will be carried and you will be led into life and life to the full, as well as you will be able to lead others and help them in their burdens and direct them to take the right decision.

Let us pray.

***My prayer: My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly how the church can help the people and guide them to take the right decision. Lord thank you for letting me see clearly practical things that I can apply in my life and in the life of the church and ministry.*

Now confess your sins and renounce them. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your greed and your love for money. Confess your lies and being dishonest, confess your anger and bad temper and confess your lust and immoralities. Confess your lack of fear in God, doing your own will and plan. Confess your corruption and your injustices. Confess being independent and not willing to humble down and come and ask counsel and advices from the church and the leaders of the church. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins

_____.
Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from this message. Lord I commit myself to open to the church the problems that I am passing through and seeking from them your will. Lord I commit myself to the Biblical solutions that your Word shows clearly how to overcome my problems. Lord help me to continue to go through the narrow way and the

narrow gate, Lord protect me from evil doers and provide all my needs. Lord I ask you to help me to take the right decision in this matter _____.

Lord thank you for all my brothers and sisters who repented of their sins and humbled themselves and came back to you and to your church. Lord help them to solve their problems and to take them out from the troubles they are in. Lord help us as a church to guide them into your will and help them to take the right decision that they need to take in their lives. Lord restore them fully to you and help them to go on and serve you.

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord lead us to help the people in giving them your will, explaining to them the way they need to live and their duties and responsibilities. Lord lead us to choose capable and honest men, who fear you, not greedy for money but willing to serve and help others. Lord give us wisdom to handle certain difficult issues and to find out from you the solutions for them. Lord increase our love to you and to your people and your work. Lord we commit ourselves to reproduce more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives, love, joy, peace, humility, self-control, patience, perseverance, long-suffering, faith and faithfulness to go on and serve you in a better way and that others may see Jesus in our lives. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you, to evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church and to reach out new people and new places. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

How to Take the Right Decision Part 9. How the Church Helps the People. Exodus 18:13-25. Deuteronomy 17:8-13. Matthew 18:15-17. Leviticus 19:15. Ezekiel 44:23. Exodus 21:1-6. Exodus 21:22. Exodus 22:7-9. Matthew 7:14. Deuteronomy 1:15-17. Deuteronomy 16:18. 2 Timothy 2:2.

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