



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: Partnering for Peace

Text: Exodus 17:8-18:27

Theme: A hallmark of godly leadership is that it draws you into a partnership of relentlessly depending on God.

Teaching Notes: On the surface, these are three disconnected narratives: Israel defeats Amalek in battle, Moses tell his father-in-law about God's rescue, then Moses learns to delegate and share leadership. But the common theme is that God's people needed a mediator. Moses' mediation of deliverance, the Gospel, and the Law points to our perfect Mediator, Jesus Christ.

Outline:

1. Mediating the Deliverance of God. (17:8-16)

- Moses' staff symbolized God's presence and power. So Moses on the hill symbolizes someone pleading for and depending on God's deliverance.
- "The LORD is our banner" means we find our identity and hope in God. We know victory is certain because the LORD is our battle standard.

2. Mediating the Gospel of God. (18:1-12)

- When Moses shared the Gospel – the Good News of God's salvation – with his Midianite in-laws, they responded in faith and confessed that Yahweh is the true God.

3. Mediating the Law of God. (18:13-27)

- Moses helped the people understand what God had to say about their disputes. But he and they grew weary so long as he did it alone.
- The purpose of delegation and shared leadership was to expose more people to the Word of the LORD in solving real world problems.

Gospel Applications:

1. Partner with leaders who relentlessly depend on God.

- Depending on God is exhausting labor. We need to strive in this together.

2. Find your hope and salvation in the better Mediator, Jesus Christ.

- Unlike Moses, Jesus Christ has no weakness. He will never tire of representing us before God and standing in our defense; and he will never tire of representing God to us so that we might know him, love him, and trust him with our lives.



Questions from Exodus 17:8-18:27 to explore individually and with your group:

1. What's one thing you learned or observed from the story of Moses raising his staff over the battlefield as the Israelites fought off the Amalekites?
2. What did the "staff of God" represent before and during the battle? What did the memorial represent after the battle? What serves this purpose in your life?
3. What does it mean that the LORD is our banner? What was that a reference to and what purpose did that serve? What functions like that in your life?
4. What is the significance of Jethro putting his faith in Yahweh after hearing the testimony of Moses? What does it say about the scope of God's salvation?
5. What are some qualifications our culture tends to look for in leadership? How is Exodus 18:21 similar to or different? How is similar to or different from the list of qualifications for elders in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1? What are your takeaways?
6. What are some practical reasons why Christian leaders need to both delegate and share the work of ministry with others? What is gained by delegating to others who have the right character, experience, and skillset to help serve?
7. How do Christian leaders experience your partnership and support? Practically, how do they know you're depending on God and joyfully serving with them?
8. What are some ways the work of Moses foreshadows the work of Christ? What are some ways Christ is a better mediator than Moses?
9. What are some ways to "look to the man on the hill with outstretched arms" in everyday life? How do you balance being active "in the fight" with striving moment by moment to depend on God?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this message?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ that he tirelessly represents us before the Father, standing in our defense, and tirelessly represents God to us so that we might know, love, and trust him.
2. Confess where you've been rallying to a banner other than Christ - finding your identity, hope, courage, and salvation, in someone or something other than Christ.
3. Ask God to help you delight in his law, his Gospel, and his deliverance today.