

Tell a story

Parsha Yitro 18:01-20-23

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Comments

This is going to be about Moshe's father-in law, Jethro. In Israel, the Druze look up to Jethro as their prophet. Just like Moses was important to the Jews, Jethro has been important to the Druze people.

In Hebrew, we refer to Jethro as Yitro.

Yitro comes to Moses excited about all of the good words and work that G-d has showed the Jews. Personally, I always thought he had converted and that was that. In reality, Yitro was moved by Judaism in a way others had not. He left his comfort zone and joined the Jewish people when they were in the desert. By this week's parsha, Moses has already married Yitro's daughter Tzipporah. Yitro watches from a distance how Moses takes care of all of the Jewish people; their requests, needs, and etc.

As Yitro is observing, he realizes how Moses is doing this solo. Yitro knows that it's impossible for one person to do all of this. He has a conversation with Moses about spreading leadership throughout the Jewish people. As we read the parsha we wonder, why Moses being the intelligent man he was didn't come up with this idea of sharing leadership with the Jewish people? Moses had his way of doing things, up until Yitro came into the picture. Moses didn't think he was doing anything wrong, by taking on everything himself. He thought for sure the people wanted to hear answers to their questions or any requests coming directly from him.

He feared the spread of leadership throughout the Jewish community wouldn't give the Jews a chance to be touched with the pure holiness he had to offer. At the time he was a prophet at the highest level of being holy. that was coming from G-d. People knew that G-d spoke in a loud voice that made the earth shake. People were afraid of seeing G-d in anyway shape or form directly. They requested to speak/hear whatever G-d had to say through Moses. Moses had always been the messenger, the go between.

When Moses discovered this, he was disappointed in the Jewish people for seeing things from their perspective. Yitro and Moses had very in-depth conversations about the best approach/way to deal with what is best for the Jewish people. All of this time Yitro was pushing for Moshe to get out of his own comfort zone. Moses may have thought he was at the top of his mountain and there was nowhere else to go.

Yitro was trying to show him that there was so much more. The biggest push that Yitro gave Moses in these conversations was, we are all humans and one day you and I will not be here in the flesh that is. He proposed a question for Moses, "Who are these people supposed to speak to when they have problems and you are no longer around?" This idea and question hit Moses hard and made a huge impact on him as well.

As this was going on, G-d stood by silently in their conversations. He agreed with Yitro, that what Moses was doing originally is not the best approach for the Jewish people. By the end, all of those conversations gave Moses some inspiration.

Moses listened to Yitro and spread out the leadership throughout the Jewish people. The parsha ends telling us that G-d gave us wings even if we don't actually see them. While we are on the earth, we have to learn how to make them work well so we can soar into the sky. G-d put humans on earth to figure out how to overcome obstacles they are going through rather than escape the struggles we are going through. It is human nature for us to go through our everyday struggles.

What we don't realize and actually feel is happening the opposite in reality, we are growing closer to G-d. A source from a Chabad website says, "we are illuminating our individual lives and elevating our entire world around us."

One way to educate ourselves in Judaism is by taking more steps in Judaism.