

Thursday, September 18

The third and fourth lessons that Jethro demonstrates are affirm and advise. I (Pastor Jack), worked with a Senior Pastor who, when he wanted to offer me advice or constructive criticism, would always begin his statement with something like, "Jack, you're just too sharp of a guy to be doing.... whatever he thought I was doing wrong." Because my colleague in ministry utilized this method so often, it began to be a little trite and a bit corny. His affirmation wasn't specific enough to indicate that he truly had something positive to say about my performance. Jethro, by watching and asking questions connects his advice to what he's seen and clarified for himself. The results were very positive and Moses is counted as a great leader not only in scripture but in history. We can easily see that great leaders listen themselves, as Moses did. Again, what has been your experience? What do you value in people offering you advice? Do you use any of these methods in your counsel to others? Contemplate these questions and write your reflection here.

Friday, September 19

The message ended with a call to consider the various opportunities to participate in the programs at Central Church and possibly serve on one of our committees or ministries. If you weren't able to come to the Rally Day Lunch after worship, perhaps you might look online for opportunities to serve or better yet, give our Administrative Assistant, Margaret Hazlett or Pastor Jack a call. There are so many ways in which Central Church can make an impact in our community! Consider your gifts and graces, your talents and interests and begin to discover what God may be calling you to do as part of the living body of Christ in the world today! Pray for this process in your life as you seek meaningful work towards God's greatest purposes. Be blessed to be a blessing.

Message Notes September 14, 2025

*A Father-in-Law's Advice**

- I. When Moses fled Egypt, he was offered hospitality by the _____ and Moses married the daughter of the _____ Priest, Jethro.
 - A. Her name was _____ and she became the mother of _____ and _____.
 - B. Gershom means "a _____ there" or "_____ there."
 - C. The name Eliezer means "_____ is my helper."
 - D. The names of those boys announce the very _____ of the Israelite community of faith.
- II. Jethro hears of the great things God has done for Moses and he is _____ and _____ of his son-in-law.
 - A. We read, "He sent word to Moses, 'I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you, with your _____ and her two _____.'"
 - B. An important element to this meeting of Moses with his father-in-law and that is we should _____ community at every opportunity that we are given.
 1. To _____ and _____ the positive elements of our lives help us to remember the goodness in our lives with which God has blessed us.
 2. We need to _____ and _____ the telling of our blessings.
 - C. On this Rally Day 2025, I want to share that we are a _____ community that has experienced _____.
- III. The next day we're told in verse 13 that Moses had to work, _____ the disputes of his people and _____ settling their differences.

*Exodus 18:10-27

- A. Jethro comes to watch Moses at work and it's not long before Jethro has some _____ to share with Moses.
 - B. Pastor and author, Kevin Kleiman writes, "Let's notice four things that Jethro does as he gives _____ to Moses, and take these as _____ for us."
 1. First is _____.
 2. Second is _____.
 3. Third is _____.
 4. Fourth and finally, Jethro offers _____.
 - C. One thing we should lift up about this exchange between Moses and Jethro is the _____ Jethro is taking in offering this advice.
 1. It's also a good idea to recognize that not all good and wise counsel comes from _____ our own community.
 2. We can learn from people who are _____ from us in whatever ways.
- IV. It is my suggestion that we take this _____ from Jethro.
- A. We need _____!
 - B. It is my hope that you will at least go to our fellowship hall and learn about _____ to get involved or more involved in Central UMC.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, September 15

The names of Moses and Zipporah provide an identity for God's people, the Israelites. Gershom means "a foreigner there" or "stranger there." The name Eliezer means "my God is my helper" or "God is my helper." These descriptive names represent the very nature of Israel when Moses was leading his people. They can also represent the church today as we navigate so many

uncharted areas of our world. We should remember always that God is our helper and is with us on the mountaintops of our lives as well as the deepest valleys. Do these identifying attributes bear any meaning for you in describing the church? Do they bear any meaning for you and your life? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, September 16

Read Exodus 18:10-27. In this passage Jethro seems like a jovial, generally happy person, doesn't he? He celebrates what God has done God's people, Israel. Even offers a burnt offering in honor of God. It is important to celebrate. Pastor Jack said it is important to remember and review the positive elements of our lives and the many blessings God gives to us. We need to remember and rehearse those blessings, because life isn't always easy. Remember the blessings in our past can sustain us through difficult times. As the call and response saying tells us: God is good...all the time. All the time...God is good. Write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, September 17

Read once again Exodus 18:10-27. Pastor Jack quoted Pastor and author, Kevin Kleiman: "Let's notice four things that Jethro does as he gives advice to Moses, and take these as lessons for us." The first two things that Jethro does before offering advice is Attend and Ask. Jethro first observes to learn what he can on his own. Through that process of observation, he can then develop the proper questions to clarify what is going on with Moses and his people. Jethro demonstrated patience and wisdom in waiting before he enters into the conversation as an advisor. While this makes sense, it isn't always the method people use in offering advice. What's your experience in receiving or giving advice? Have you seen this method utilized by others? Does this method make sense? Write your thoughts and ideas here praying for God's wisdom.