



ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE “Caring and Sharing” Deuteronomy 1:9-18

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Some people estimate that there were over 2 million people in the wilderness *en route* to the good life. No wonder Moses expressed deep concern about proper care for them. Fortunately his father-in-law showed him how to mobilize the people into a caring/sharing community.

I. The Immensity of the Problem—Caring for All the People.

- A. Numerical problems. v. 10
 - 1. Evidence of Divine blessing.
 - 2. But had to be handled.
- B. Social problems.
 - 1. Slaves. Exodus 21:1-11
 - 2. Widows. Deuteronomy 10:17-19
 - 3. Aliens. Numbers 11:4
- C. Personal problems.
 - 1. Burdens of guilt. Psalm 38:4
 - 2. Burdens of circumstance. 2 Samuel 15:33
 - 3. Burdens of despair. Job 7:20
- D. Spiritual problems.
 - 1. Those who sought God’s will. Exodus 18:15
 - 2. Those who fought God’s will. Deuteronomy 1:26
 - 3. Those who doubt God’s will. Deuteronomy 1:27, 32
- E. Attitudinal problems.
 - 1. Grumbling about life. Deuteronomy 1:27
 - 2. Quarreling with each other. v. 12
 - “You are too heavy a burden for me to carry alone.” v. 9

II. The Simplicity of the Proposal—Sharing the Caring.

- A. The developing of a structure. Exodus 18:13-23
 - 1. Leadership—“Heads” appointed and accepted. vv. 13-14
 - 2. Fellowship—groups from 1000 to 10. Exodus 18:21
- B. The outpouring of the Spirit.
 - 1. Men of intensity and integrity. Exodus 18:21
 - 2. Men on whom the Spirit rests. Numbers 11:24-25
- C. The sharing of the stress. Exodus 18:23

III. The Complexity of the Procedure—Getting People to Care and Share.

- A. Getting to the hurting on time.
 - 1. Prevention is better than cure.
- B. Getting the healthy involved.
 - 1. Is it more blessed to give than to receive?
 - 2. Is it true that the great are those who serve?
 - 3. Is it a fact that a cup of cold water makes a difference?
 - 4. Is it possible I am my brother’s keeper?