

**“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”**

Week of 02/22/2015 – Burden Bearers Exodus 18

**Food and Fellowship:**

Take time to enjoy some food and fellowship together, afterwards move the discussion to where you can all sit together.

**Prayer:**

Take a few minutes to share prayer requests individually. As each person shares give opportunity for someone in the group to commit to pray for the requests that were just shared. After all of the prayer requests have been shared take a few minutes to pray over the requests. One person should begin praying with a person designated to close after everyone who desires to pray out loud has prayed. One person can pray for all of the requests also...the goal is to feel comfortable sharing and have opportunity to open up with prayer.

**Reflect:**

Take a few minutes to reflect on the Sermon from most recent Sunday.

- What sticks out in your mind?
- What principle/principles did you glean?
- How do you plan to apply some of the principles personally from the sermon? Please share.

**Looking In:**

**Exodus 18:**

<sup>17</sup> Moses' father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is not good. <sup>18</sup> You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. <sup>19</sup> Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, <sup>20</sup> and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. <sup>21</sup> Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. <sup>22</sup> And let them judge the people at all times.

**Acts 6:1-7**

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists<sup>[a]</sup> arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers,<sup>[b]</sup> pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup> And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. In the message this week we saw Jethro deliver some pretty difficult words for any leader to hear. Place yourself in Moses' shoes: How would you respond if a person told you that the burden you are attempting to lift is too heavy and you need help from other people? Would you be inclined to implement the advice or continue trying to lift the burden?
2. Dwight Moody renowned pastor, evangelist, teacher and scholar of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was often quoted as saying that he would rather put a thousand men to work than do the work of a thousand men. What was Dwight Moody attempting to communicate? How does giving work away create a better organization?
3. Describe your view of leadership in the church. Who should be shouldered with the work of the ministry? If only a few carry the load what might be the consequences?
4. Discuss the concepts of ability, godly character, trustworthiness, and availability as it relates to leadership in the church. How important are these qualities when it comes to leaders in children's/students/and adult ministry in the church?
5. How can the church better equip the congregation for leadership? Discuss what types of leadership opportunities are available in the church. How can serving in a leadership role at Firewheel make you a better leader in other environments (ie. home/office/community)?

## **Close:**

Take a moment to close with prayer