

Christchurch, Clarendon Park

Notes from the Sermon preached at the Annual Covenant Service: 13/01/2019

Revd Edson Dube

Bible readings: Exodus 18: 13 – 26,

Luke 10: 1 – 12

Introduction

After the Covenant Service held at Christchurch on the 13th January 2019, a request from some of the congregation was made for me to provide the notes of my Homily for that service, so that those who were not present during the service will also have a chance to hear the message I shared with the church that morning. I have therefore taken some time to provide the notes as requested, with the hope that the Holy Spirit will still speak to those who will have access to this message.

The Annual Covenant Service reminds us of our commitment to God and to his mission in the world through the church community. It is in this service that we are all invited to reflect prayerfully on our place in the life of the church and in the world around us.

- The Old Testament reading points to the following about the figure of Moses the “law-giver” :
 - That he was chosen by God to lead the children of Israel to the promised land.
 - The Lord was with him throughout his leadership and in turn Moses depended on His guidance for the success of his leadership.

MOSES’S LEADERSHIP

- It is clear from the reading that because his commitment to his God and his leadership, he presided in all the disputes between the people he led, such that he was engaged in this from dawn to sunset.

JETHRO THE PRIEST FROM MIDIAN

- Jethro a Priest from Midian was also Moses’s father -in – law, visited Moses and observed with concern how much Moses spent much of his time resolving conflicts among the people and how this was taking its toll on him.
- Moses also shepherded a flock that belonged to Jethro and had made a lasting impression to his father -in-law during that period as a shepherd.
- A conversation between Moses and his father-in-law prompted Jethro to raise a concern about Moses’s style of leadership, that it would eventually wear him and the people out. Jethro also conveyed concerns regarding Moses’s general welfare and presented him with an alternative style of being an effective leader.
- That he should choose from among the people of Israel, men who fear God, are trustworthy and do not take bribes.
- These men would oversee and help resolve minor disagreements/ conflict leaving the challenging ones to be dealt with by Moses.
- This would allow him to attend to major issues that concern the community and pray to God on behalf of the people.

JETHRO’S MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

- The leadership model in Exodus 18 offered by Jethro to Moses is that of collaboration. According to this model, the emphasis is on sharing the task that will hopefully remove the pressure on the leader, hence helps him/her to be more effective in their role. This model also provides us with a model for effective leadership for the church today.

An effective leader therefore has the following attributes:

- An effective leader - stands before God on behalf of the people.
 - Get wisdom and direction from God that he/she passes on to God's people
- An effective leader – teaches people about God and their place in God's Kingdom
 - Develops new leaders for the organisation
- An effective leader - creates teams.
 - she/ he identifies talents and gifts in people and encourage them to flourish.
- An effective leader- delegates.
 - She/ he avoids trying to do everything but delegates some of the roles assigned to him/ her.
- An effective leader - creates a system of accountability.
 - While delegating some roles, there is continued checks for those taking on the roles.
- Effective leader - encourages and empowers others to feel valued when trusted with responsibilities.

Christ has many services that need doing in the church and in our community. We have circulated a list of areas that you may prayerfully consider doing as part of your continuous commitment to God's mission and the life of the church.