

AM WORKSHEET

Title: God Uses “Best Practices” To Direct Us Into Good | **Text:** Exodus 18:13-27

Intro: How do we get things done? Work *harder* or *smarter*? What are “best practices” in the workplace?

Key Thought: The Lord used Jethro to counsel Moses to implement practices that would improve the overall health & satisfaction of *the entire assembly under God’s care*. This applies to work, to home, and to the community at large. God uses wise counsel (or “best practices”) to direct us in the way we should go.

1A **“BEST PRACTICES” UNKNOWN** _____, vv13-18

1B *Observation* _____ & *Inquiry* _____, vv13, 14

2B *Explanation* _____, vv15, 16.

3B *Assessment* _____ & *Identification* _____, vv17, 18

2A **“BEST PRACTICES” ADVISED** _____, vv19-23
Jethro’s preface, v19a: (1) Immediate value; (2) Respect my wisdom & experience; (3) God will help you “see”

1B *Mediator* _____ & *Instructor* _____, vv19b, 20

2B *Appointer* _____ & *Delegator* _____, vv21, 22

3B *Winner* _____, v23

3A **“BEST PRACTICES” IMPLEMENTED** _____, vv24-27

1B *Follow-thru* _____, vv24-26a

2B *Win for all* _____, vv26b, 27

Q. How does this relate to Christ our Lord?

Reflect on the principles of “best practices” *we saw in the text* that we can implement in our own lives:

- **When critiquing something or someone**
(1) Be cautious in your evaluations & careful in your speech; (2) Ask questions, seeking to understand the reasoning & factors that play into a particular practice, before launching into criticisms; (3) Give time for others to explain & be respectful when you listen (even if you disagree); (4) Recognize differences in administration, etc., & be honest in your evaluations of others & their methods, Mt 7:2; (5) Be as concerned for the well-being of others, when offering advice, as Jethro was for his son-in-law & the children of Israel.
- **Or to minimize “burn out” in our lives (or in others)**
(1) Remember that you can’t do everything by yourself, no matter what you think. You’re finite, work is “endless.” Sometimes the project is bigger than you! Work hard & smart. Prioritize your tasks. Don’t be afraid (or ashamed; or too proud) to ask for help when you need it. (2) Do what you can in that day and leave what is unfinished for the next day. Measure out your workload to prevent overload. Distribute among others when you can. “*Many hands make light work.*” (3) Seek the wisdom & experience of others. You don’t know how many “*Jethros*” you might have in your workplace, but search them all out & utilize their expertise.