

**Word Notes Sunday 25/06/17**  
**Tony Hodge – A Visit From The In-Laws**

**Summary** *(read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>)*

**Key Text: Exodus 18:5-27**

Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, see Moses wearing himself out trying to meet every need of the whole nation of Israel and suggests a better way. Similarly in Acts 6, the Apostles find themselves helping out in the "Food Bank" instead of answering their primary calling to lead the people closer to God. In both cases the Lord's answer is for them to appoint "*men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain*" or "*men ..... who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom*" to share the load.

Team ministry is a theme running through the Bible, starting with God Himself – the "Godhead" or Trinity through to these appointments and even the various ministries and offices of the Body found in Eph 4:11 & 12, 1 Cor 12:28, Titus 1 and 1 Tim 3 – a good solid argument against the "one-man-band" form of church leadership.

It is God who ordained these things (Eph 4:11 and Ex 18:23) through advice and counsel found in scripture – let's not turn our back on His gifts but embrace the diversity in the body, making sure we cultivate our own gifting and make it available to the body (1 Cor 12:31).

**Application** *(this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)*

- 1) Read Exodus 18:5-27
  - a) Why do you think Moses was acting the way he was? How were the people missing out because of this?
  - b) What gave Jethro the insight to see the problem and the solution?
  - c) Which of the reasons shared in "a)" do you need to change in your life to allow others to grow in maturity or ministry?
  
- 2) Read Acts 6:1-7
  - a) What similarities are there with the Exodus passage?
  - b) What was the result of getting the right people into the right place?
  - c) What gifts can you bring to the body to enable it to grow? Are you hiding them "under a bushel" and if so how can you put them into action?
  
- 3) Not a leader? – What can you do to make the work easier for those who are? *(Hint: Heb 13:17....)*

**Witness** *(this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News)*

When the body functioned as it should there was growth. Witness, evangelism are activities where we can all play a role. Not all are street preachers, not all will want to pray on the streets but all have something to give. What are your gifts and skills and how can they help in the Great Commission to "Go into all the world"?