



Halakhah at Halftime Yitro and Lombardi on Leadership

TEAMWORK

Individual commitment to a group effort: that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work. - Vince Lombardi

Every position is critical. - Troy Aikman

It's an honor to be considered with the great players,
but you have to consider the fact that I've had a lot of help. - Dan Marino

Exodus 18:14-18

(14) And when Moses' father-in-law [Yitro] saw all that he did for the people, he said: "What is this thing that you do for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" (15) And Moses said unto his father-in-law: "Because the people come unto me to inquire of God; (16) when they have a matter, it comes to me; and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and I tell them the statutes of God, and God's laws." (17) And Moses' father-in-law said to him: "The thing that you do is not good. (18) You will surely wear away, both you, and this people; for the thing is too heavy for you; you are not able to perform it alone."

שמות יח: יד-יח

(יד) וַיֵּרָא חִתֵּן מֹשֶׁה אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-הוּא עֹשֶׂה לָעָם; וַיֹּאמֶר, "מַה-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה לָעָם? מִדּוּעַ אַתָּה יוֹשֵׁב לְבֶדֶד, וְכָל-הָעָם נֹצֵב עֲלֶיךָ מִן-בֹּקֶר עַד-עָרֶב? (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה לְחִתְּנוֹ: "כִּי-יָבֵא אֵלַי הָעָם, לְדַרְשׁ אֶל-הָיִים. (טז) כִּי-יִהְיֶה לָהֶם דָּבָר, בֵּא אֵלַי, וְשִׁפְטֵתִי, בֵּין אִישׁ וּבֵין רֵעֵהוּ; וְהוֹדַעְתִּי אֶת-חֻקֵּי הָאֱלֹהִים, וְאֶת-תּוֹרֹתַי." (יז) וַיֹּאמֶר חִתֵּן מֹשֶׁה אֵלָיו: "לֹא-טוֹב הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה. (יח) נָבֵל תִּבְלַל-גַּם-אַתָּה, גַּם-הָעָם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר עִמָּךְ; כִּי-כָבֵד מִמֶּךָ הַדָּבָר, לֹא-תִוְכַל עֲשׂוֹהוּ לְבֶדֶד."

- Why does Yitro critique Moses' leadership? What problems does he raise?
- Why was Moses operating this way in the first place? Why might he be reluctant to consider an alternate system?
- Having a system of justice is one of the laws the Torah requires for everyone, not just Jews. Why is it so important that justice systems are in place?

TEAM BUILDING

It's all about putting the best team together – not just in the front office but the players on the field. - John Elway

In any team sport, the best teams have consistency and chemistry. - Roger Staubach

Leadership is based on a spiritual quality: the power to inspire others to follow. - Vince Lombardi

I don't know any other way to lead but by example. - Don Shula

Exodus 18:21-23

[Yitro continues:] (21) "You shall provide out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. (22) And let them judge the people at all seasons; and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto you, but every small matter they shall judge themselves; so shall they make it easier for you and bear the burden with you. (23) If you shall do this thing, and God commands you so, then you shall be able to endure, and all this people also shall go to their place in peace."

שמות יח: כא-כג

(כא) וְאַתָּה תַּחֲזֶה מִכָּל-הָעָם אֲנָשִׁי-חַיִּל יְרֵאִי אֱלֹהִים, אֲנָשִׁי אֱמֶת--שֹׂנְאֵי בָצַע; וְשִׂמְתָּ עֲלֵהֶם שָׂרֵי אֲלָפִים, שָׂרֵי מֵאוֹת, שָׂרֵי חֲמִשִּׁים, וְשָׂרֵי עֶשְׂרֵת. (כב) וְשִׁפְטוּ אֶת-הָעָם, בְּכָל-עֵת, וְהָיָה כָל-הַדָּבָר הַגָּדוֹל בְּיָאוֹ אֵלֶיךָ, וְכָל-הַדָּבָר הַקָּטָן יִשְׁפְטוּ-הֵם; וְהִקַּל מֵעֲלֶיךָ, וְנִשְׂאוּ אֹתָךְ. (כג) אִם אִת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה, תַּעֲשֶׂה, וַיְצַוְךָ אֱלֹהִים, וַיְכַלְתָּ עַמְד; וְגַם כָּל-הָעָם הַזֶּה, עַל-מַקְמוֹ יָבֵא בְשָׁלוֹם."

- How do the proposed changes resolve the problems that Yitro raised?
- What does it take to establish a justice system with many layers?
- How do Yitro's suggestions reflect the leadership advice from players and coaches?
- What type of justice system is best? Why?