

The Power of Encouragement

New Life Lessons
June 5th, 6th & 7th, 2015
Pastor Ron Salsbury

Day One – Read Acts 9:26; 11:22-26.

When Saul came to Jerusalem, after three years in Arabia and Damascus, the apostles were reluctant to see him. We can understand why! Where had he been? Was he really changed? Could he be trusted? How did Barnabas intervene? How was he a help and an encouragement to Saul and the apostles?

Pray and ask God to help you “intervene” when the time is right to be an encouragement to someone. Who in your life right now needs encouragement? How can we be sure it’s right to “intervene?”

Day Two – Read Acts 11:24a; Galatians 5:22-26.

Barnabas was “*a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.*” To be used in such a powerful way in the early church, Barnabas had to be a godly, mature man! What “spiritual fruit” (Galatians 5:22-26) do you think especially came in to play in his life and ministry? How had he been prepared?

Pray – Ask God to grow you, form you, direct you, and use you in the lives of others. Ask that he would give you diligence and perseverance in your discipleship so that like Barnabas, you’ll be ready to be used in the lives of others.

Day Three – Read Acts 15:36-41; 1 Corinthians 9:6; Colossians 4:10.

Do you think Paul and Barnabas failed in not being able to work out their difference of opinion concerning Mark? Was it “o.k.” to part ways? Are there times when we love each other, but can’t work together? We don’t know if they ever met again, but in Paul’s letters he seems warm toward Barnabas. We can be fairly sure they forgave each other.

Pray - Ask God to help you love, communicate with, and forgive those with whom you have a challenge. Ask for the grace to love, accept, forgive, and encourage others.

“The Barnabas Factor”

A .D. Series #10

Acts 9:26 – 31; 11:22-26; Hebrews 10:25

Acts 9:26-31 (NIV) ²⁶ When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ **But Barnabas took him and brought him** to the apostles. He **told them** how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. ³¹ Then **the church** throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was **strengthened**; and **encouraged** by the Holy Spirit, it **grew in numbers**, living in **the fear of the Lord**. Acts 11:19-21 *Explosive growth in Antioch*

Acts 11:22-26 (NIV) ²² News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and **they sent Barnabas to Antioch**. ²³ When he arrived and saw **the evidence of the grace of God**, he was glad and **encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts**. ²⁴ He was a **good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith**, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ **Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul**, ²⁶ and when he found him, he **brought him to Antioch**. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called *Christians* first at Antioch.

Who Was Barnabas?

Barnabas was a Levite and native of the island of Cyprus. He was named Joseph (Joses), before the disciples called him “Barnabas,” which means “*son of encouragement.*” He sold property and gave the proceeds to the church in Jerusalem. He travelled with Paul on their first missionary journey.

The Power of Encouragement

The “Barnabas Factor”

1. Getting Our Own Heart Right

Acts 11:24a (NIV) ^{24a} Barnabas was a **good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.** Acts 4:36-37; Psalm 51:1-2,10; Matthew 6:14; Ephesians 4:26-27; Galatians 5:22-26

What spiritual “fruit” is needed to be a good encourager?

Acts 13:2 (NIV) ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me **Barnabas and Saul** for the work to which I have called them.” Acts 13:9,13

Acts 13:42 (NIV) ⁴² As **Paul and Barnabas** were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.

Matthew 12:34b (NIV) ^{34b} Out of the **overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.** Proverbs 4:23

Colossians 3:15-16a (NIV) ¹⁵ **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** since as members of one body you were called to peace. **And be thankful.** ^{16a} **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** as you **teach** and **admonish one another** with all **wisdom...** James 3:13, 17

“Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you’d have preferred to talk.”
- Doug Larson

2. Gaining an Understanding of Others.

Acts 9:27 (NIV) ²⁷ **Barnabas took Saul** and brought him to the apostles. **He told them** how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.
Proverbs 18:13

“Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.”
- Stephen R. Covey

3. Giving What is Truly Needed

Acts 11:25-26, 29-30 (NIV) ²⁵ Then **Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,** ²⁶ and when he found him, **he brought him to Antioch.** So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and **taught great numbers of people.** The disciples were called *Christians* first at Antioch.

²⁹ The **disciples,** each according to his ability, **decided to provide help** for the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, **sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.**

What Did Barnabas Give Saul?

- **The Ministry of Presence**
- **Confidence in His Ability to Serve**
- **A Place to Serve at the Church of Antioch**
- **Equal Authority in Ministry**
- **Love and Respect in Spite of Disagreement**

Acts 15:36 - 41(NIV) ³⁶Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”... ³⁹ **They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.** Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. 1 Corinthians 9:6; Colossians 4:10

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **let us encourage one another--**and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; Romans 12:8; Acts 15:32

Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV) ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.