

## The Encouragement of Barnabas Acts 4:36-37

*Thesis: To help us be the kind of people that will encourage others.*

### Introduction:

Today, we will try to answer the question, “Why was Barnabas called the ‘Son of Encouragement?’”

### I. Barnabas helped others.

- A. He gave so that others could have what they needed.
  1. At that time, it was the custom for those in the church in Jerusalem to sell what they had so that others could have what they needed (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37).
  2. Later, Barnabas is going to take a collection from the church in Antioch to the church in Jerusalem when there was a famine in the land (Acts 11:27-30).
  3. Barnabas continually gave so that others could have; and this would be a great encouragement to the church.
- B. It is a great encouragement to us when we are able to help others in their time of need.
  1. There is a great satisfaction when we do what we can to help others.
    - a. Example of church bus from Orlando that broke down in Tifton.
    - b. If you want to feel good about yourself, do something to help others.
  2. God promises us that if we give to help others, we will be blessed.
    - a. Pr. 11:25 - The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.
    - b. Pr. 22:9 - He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.
    - c. Ecc. 11:1 - Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.
    - d. Lk. 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.
    - e. Lk. 14:12-14 - Then He also said to him who invited Him, “When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. { 13 } But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. { 14 } And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”
    - f. Acts 20:35b - And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

- g. It is not necessarily a physical blessing, but it is the satisfaction that we have done what we could to help others.

## II. Barnabas encouraged others to continue to be faithful to the Lord (Acts 11:19-26).

- A. Barnabas was sent from Jerusalem to Antioch for the sole purpose of strengthening the church.
  - 1. Not only did he do it by himself, but he also went and brought Paul with him (11:25-26).
  - 2. Because of his efforts, he and Paul were able to teach many people for the year that they were in Antioch.
- B. We also, need to encourage others to be faithful to God.
  - 1. There is nothing more important than remaining faithful to God.
    - a. Sometimes it is difficult to be faithful.
      - 1) We may be influenced by outside forces.
      - 2) We may become discouraged when we feel like we are fighting alone.
    - b. Sometimes we need others to encourage us along the way.
  - 2. It is easier to stand when we are not alone.
    - a. **Ecc. 4:9-12** - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. {10} For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. {11} Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? {12} Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.
    - b. **Mk. 6:7-13** – Jesus sends out the twelve “two by two.”
    - c. **Lk. 10:1-13** – Jesus sends out the seventy “two by two.”
    - d. There is power in number because of the encouragement that we obtain by it.
- C. At times, we all need someone to encourage us, just as Barnabas encouraged the churches at Antioch and Jerusalem.

### III. Barnabas gave others the benefit of the doubt.

- A. There are at least two individuals that Barnabas helped by giving them the benefit of the doubt.
  - 1. Paul (9:26-30)
  - 2. John Mark (15:36-39)
    - a. This is the last mention of Barnabas in the book of Acts.
    - b. However, we can be assured that Barnabas continued in the work of the Lord.
- B. We today, need to be slow in passing judgment and quick to give others the benefit of the doubt.
  - 1. Because of our own sin and imperfections, we all need a second chance in life (the benefit of the doubt).
  - 2. Just like Paul and John Mark, we need the encouragement of others by way of a second chance.

### Conclusion:

The name Barnabas was given to him by the apostles because of the kind of person that he was (4:36).

If the apostles were going to name me, what name would they give me?

- I. Barnabas helped others.
- II. Barnabas encouraged others to continue to be faithful to the Lord.
- III. Barnabas gave others the benefit of the doubt.