

BARNABAS

Son Of Encouragement

Background

- ▣ A believer named Joses (or Joseph)
- ▣ A Levite
- ▣ Born on island of Cyprus
- ▣ Cousin of Mark (gospel writer)
- ▣ Apostles called him “Barnabas”
 - Means: One Who Encourages
- ▣ Committed to the cause of Christ

Barnabas the Traveller



Barnabas

1) Generous

- ▣ Acts 4:36-37
- ▣ First appearance in biblical record
- ▣ Sells land and brings the proceeds to the apostles
- ▣ Apostles distributed funds collected from property owners to distribute to those in need.
- ▣ Result: Acts 4:34 “For there was not a needy person among them...”

Barnabas

2) Receptive

- ▣ Acts 9:26-28
- ▣ Went to Saul (Paul), accepted him and brought him to the apostles
- ▣ Apostles and many others were afraid of Saul
- ▣ His reputation was well known
- ▣ Could Saul do a 180° ?
- ▣ It was a challenge for any Christian to accept Saul

Barnabas

3) Team Player

- ▣ Fell back into a more supportive role as Paul (formerly Saul) grew in boldness as an apostle
- ▣ Essential to the success Paul and he enjoyed on their missionary journeys
- ▣ Not jealous of Paul's success or abilities
- ▣ No problem with ego
- ▣ Did what was necessary to bolster the church

Barnabas

4) Dealt With Contention

- ▣ Acts 15:35-40
- ▣ Disagreement over John Mark, cousin to Barnabas
- ▣ Text indicates a “sharp disagreement”
- ▣ Barnabas and Paul part ways
- ▣ Both remained committed to their mission
- ▣ Reconciliation was apparent in following years

Barnabas

5) Good Man

- ▣ Acts 11:24
- ▣ Good man
- ▣ Full of the Holy Spirit
- ▣ Full of Faith
- ▣ Many positive comments about Barnabas in the biblical record

Barnabas

6) Encourager

- ▣ Acts 4:36
- ▣ Acts 11:22-23 (one example)
- ▣ One of the greatest attributes one could possess
- ▣ Very needed in the body of Christ
 - Helps struggling
 - Reassures
 - Helps people cope with disappointment
 - Helps people cope with failure
 - Keeps people motivated
 - Keeps people moving toward the goal

Barnabas

7) Made Mistakes

- ▣ Gal. 2:11-13
- ▣ Though a good man, not perfect
- ▣ Fell victim to past prejudices
- ▣ Influenced by fellow Jews
- ▣ This shocked Paul
- ▣ Thankfully, this was included to help all of us deal with our own mistakes

Barnabas

8) Sacrificed

- ▣ I Cor. 9:6
- ▣ Barnabas worked to “pay his way”
- ▣ Barnabas spent years just going from church to church building it up
- ▣ He gave up any goals or ambitions he had formerly sought and did what he thought was necessary for the cause of Christ
- ▣ Result: What he did for the church cannot even be measured. One of the greatest players in the growth of the early church.

Barnabas: Conclusion

- ▣ Can you be a Barnabas?
 - Generous
 - Receptive
 - Team Player
 - Deal Positively With Contention
 - Good Person, Full of Holy Spirit and Faith
 - Encourage
 - Not Perfect
 - Sacrifice