

BARNABAS THE ENCOURAGER

Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:22-26; 13:1-5; 14:21-23;15:36-41

Text: Heb. 10:25 ,“Let us encourage one another and all the more ...”

Not everyone can be bold like Peter, Paul or John were. But everyone can become a Barnabas! His name means “*Son of Consolation*”, or “*Comforter*.” He is mentioned at least 25 times in the book of Acts and 5 times in the epistles.

Encouraging Paul

After Saul was converted to Christ, the Scripture says in Acts 9:26, “*When he (Saul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was really a disciple.*”

In v.27, however, Barnabas came to Saul’s side and stood up for Him and told the others about this man’s amazing conversion. He stood up for one who desperately needed a friend. There is still a need for this kind of ministry today!

Encouraging the Disciples

Acts 11:22-23, “*...and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 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.*”

He was excited about what God was doing and how these new converts were serving the Lord and he did his best to encourage them to carry on for God. He “*offered them encouragement!*” This means that he “*exhorted*” them. Read Rom. 14:19 and 1 Thess. 5:11.

Encouraging the Deserter

Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company (Acts 15:37-39).

Paul takes Silas and goes out with him, while Barnabas takes John Mark and disappears from the biblical account. While Barnabas is never heard from again, his ministry to John Mark had far reaching consequences! Because Barnabas gave this discouraged and defeated young man a second chance, his life as a servant of God was salvaged. Mark was used of the Lord to pen the Gospel of Mark which gives us an exciting account of the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In fact, before Paul died in Rome, he requested that Mark be sent to him, 2 Tim. 4:11, “*Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful.*”

Barnabas was a loving, compassionate, generous and sensitive Christian, who throughout his life lived up to his name—“*Son of Encouragement.*”

Soli Deo Gloria

