

## Be an Encourager?

Acts 4:32-37 NLT

Here we are introduced to one of the most influential members of the early church in Jerusalem.

### I. BARNABAS, A CLOSER LOOK

- a. In the book of Acts we read that he was a righteous man, full of the Holy Spirit and had the respect of those who served with him.
- b. Barnabas saw the potential in those around him,
- c. Two of the most influential people in the NT were encouraged by Barnabas' vision for their potential in Christ...

### II. ENCOURAGEMENT IN ACTION

- a. Barnabas was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> in the church to see the potential in Paul...  
the potential that Christ had illuminated on the road to Damascus...

#### Acts 9:26-28 NLT

Here we read how Barnabas brought Paul to the disciples and defended his ministry!

**Barnabas believed in Paul when NO ONE else would...**

- b. We also see another situation that involved Paul as well...

(1) He and Paul **strongly disagreed** on including John Mark on their 2nd missionary journey.

A. Paul didn't want him to come because he had abandoned them on their 1st journey.

Barnabas believed John had changed and wanted him to come along.

**The same way he had believed in Paul!**

B. Barnabas had not lost faith...

Barnabas believed in Mark and that God could and would use him in a great way.

John Mark wrote the book of Mark!

(2) The **disagreement was so strong** that:

Barnabas was willing to separate from Paul and take Mark with him -  
on another separate missionary journey.

Barnabas was a great encouragement to Mark in his time of trial.

### III. BARNABAS SHOWED UP

He was there financially and emotionally as well.

**He was there to encourage those who needed encouragement.**

What if?

What if Barnabas wasn't there? Perish the thought!

Where would Paul and Mark have ended up without the encouragement of Barnabas?

### IV. A CALL TO ENCOURAGE

- a. We are called by God to be encouraging and edifying to the body of Christ!

#### Hebrews 10:25 NLT; Romans 12:6-9 NLT

- b. The 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans deals with The Danger of Criticism. .  
The issues at hand were legalism. & The infighting associated with it.

The 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans deals with Living to Please Others.

#### Romans 15:1-5 NLT

- c. **Reach out and encourage someone today!**

Do you see potential in a member of our church?

Have you come alongside them to encourage them and lift them up in the kingdom?

Like Barnabas, your encouragement and support of another believer  
can and will make a difference in their life!