

THE LION & THE LAMB

Section Two: The Book of Acts

#12. Barnabas: Church Member of the Year

6.25.17

Acts 4:32-37 NASB And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. ³⁴For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales ³⁵and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

I. The nature of encouragement

- A. **1 Thessalonians 5:13 NASB** and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.
- B. **Galatians 6:1-2 NASB** Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.
- C. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NASB** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

I. The example of Barnabas

- A. He learned the value of sharing.

Acts 4:36-37 NASB Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

- 1. Target: The needy. "Find a need and meet it."

- B. He learned the value of friendship.

Acts 9:22-28 NASB But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ. ²³When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through *an opening in the wall*, lowering him in a large basket. ²⁶When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

1. Target: The lonely. "Find somebody who is rejected and befriend them."

C. He learned the value of affirmation.

Acts 11:20-24 NASB But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. ²²The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. ²³Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord; ²⁴for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

1. Target: The misunderstood. "Find somebody misunderstood and affirm them."

D. He learned the value of mentoring.

Acts 11:25-26 NASB And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; ²⁶and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

1. Target: The undiscovered. "Find someone under-used and develop them."

E. He learned the value of restoring people.

Acts 15:36-38 NASB After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are." ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. ³⁸But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

1. Target: The defeated. "Find somebody who failed and restore them."

Christian Life Lessons

1. The characteristic of encouragement is drawn from the same word used to describe the Holy Spirit – parakletos.
2. There are two ministries that continually take place before the Throne of God: accusation and intercession. Which will you be known for?