

Encouragement In Action - Barnabas

Barnabas – the one called Son of
Encouragement

Introduction

- New Testament has commands for us to encourage one another in and out of assemblies
- Beyond these, Holy Spirit has given us examples of those who are singled out as those who were noted for encouraging others
- Barnabas is such a one pointed out to us as being one who encouraged others

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Introduction

- We look at him to be encouraged to be as he was, Christians who are known to encourage one another
- We know our Lord is supreme example but in Barnabas we are encouraged that even we, if we apply the Word to our lives, can be such a one known for encouraging others

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Encouragement In Action - Barnabas

Benevolent

Forgiving and trusting

Willing to teach others the Word

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Benevolent

Act 2:44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;
Act 2:45 and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

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Benevolent

Act 4:32 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.

Act 4:33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

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Benevolent

Act 4:34 For 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

Act 4:35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

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Benevolent

Act 4:36 Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),

Act 4:37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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Benevolent

- Joseph's nickname Son of encouragement (Barnabas) contrasted to James and John being called sons of thunder
- Apostles gave him that name for his benevolent actions to help others in need
- Barnabas did what was needed, what he was able and willing to do, sell a piece of land and contribute the proceeds to the needs of saints

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Benevolent

- Barnabas' faith was not just talk only but action
- He acted to please God and help others and not for the praise of men

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Benevolent

Jas 2:14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

Jas 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

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Benevolent

Jas 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

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Benevolent

Act 5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

Act 5:2 and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

Act 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?"

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Benevolent

Act 5:4 "While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Act 5:5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

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Benevolent

Mat 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Mat 6:2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

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Forgiving And Trusting

Act 9:26 When 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.

Act 9:27 But 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.

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Forgiving And Trusting

Act 9:28 And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

Act 9:29 And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death.

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Forgiving And Trusting

Act 9:30 But when the brethren learned of *it*, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

Act 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

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Forgiving And Trusting

- When no one in Jerusalem church would, Barnabas showed confidence in Saul who had become a Christian after persecuting Jewish Christians
- We too must recognize the Lord's mercy given to others and be willing to forgive their past sins and work with them trusting they have and will continue to change as we do also

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Forgiving And Trusting

- Temptation – hold an attitude of not forgiving and not believing that someone can truly change to serve the Lord
- Barnabas encouraged Saul and worked with Him in the Lord
- He did not hold Saul's past against him
- He believed Saul had and would continue to change for good to God's glory

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Forgiving And Trusting

1Co 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

1Co 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

1Co 13:6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

1Co 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ²¹

Willing To Teach Others The Word

Act 11:19 So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.

Act 11:20 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. ²²

Willing To Teach Others The Word

Act 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

Act 11:22 The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.

Act 11:23 Then 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; ²³

Willing To Teach Others The Word

Act 11:24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

Act 11:25 And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul;

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Willing To Teach Others The Word

Act 11:26 and 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.

Act 11:27 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

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Willing To Teach Others The Word

Act 11:28 One of them named Agabus stood up and *began* to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the *reign* of Claudius.

Act 11:29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a *contribution* for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.

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Willing To Teach Others The Word

Act 11:30 And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

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Willing To Teach Others The Word

- Barnabas was concerned about teaching others to become and remain Christians, remaining loyal to the Lord not to men
- He was interested in teaching those culturally different from himself – Jew versus Gentile
- He encourages others that the Lord's teaching was for all who would obey it

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Willing To Teach Others The Word

- Prejudice often stops us from teaching those who are different than we are the gospel
- We must overcome this and realize that God is not partial to anyone based on nationality
- As encouraging as Barnabas was, even he stumbled back regarding prejudice

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Willing To Teach Others The Word

Act 10:34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,

Act 10:35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

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Willing To Teach Others The Word

Gal 2:11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

Gal 2:12 For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

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Willing To Teach Others The Word

Gal 2:13 The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

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