

Profiles in

EXCELLENCE

*Barnabas:
Helping, Encouraging, Standing*

I. New Christian with a Nickname

Acts 4:36-37

"Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."

- Son of consolation or _____
- More than a kind nickname but based on his _____ and his _____

II. Good Man, with a Good Reputation, Doing Good Work

Acts 11:19-24

"Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. (20) But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. (21) And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. (22) The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and **they sent Barnabas to Antioch.** (23) **When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, (24) for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.** And a great many people were added to the Lord."

Luke narrates the Acts of the apostles with Barnabas in some key events:

- Saw the _____ of other and helped financially (Acts 4:36-37)
- Stands _____ for Saul (Acts 9:26-28)
- Sees the "_____ of God" and encourages them to remain faithful (Acts 11:19-24)
 - Diverse group of believers going to many places preaching Jesus
 - Some preached to "Hellenists" (Greek-speaking Jews)
 - Gospel message is about to explode and Barnabas is one who encouraged the message
- Searches for Saul and _____ him to Antioch (Acts 11:25-26)
 - Barnabas and Saul preached together
- Serves to deliver _____ to Christians in Judea (Acts 11:27-30)
 - Barnabas and Saul working together

- Barnabas and Saul return from Jerusalem with John Mark (Acts 12:24-25)
- Holy Spirit called for Barnabas and Saul to _____ God wanted them to do (Acts 13)
 - Sent by well gifted and perhaps well off church in Antioch (13:1-2)
 - Why did they sail to Cyprus? (Acts 4:36 - Barnabas was native of Cyprus; 11:19-21)
 - Name of Saul shifts to Paul (Acts 13:9)
 - Luke (narrator of Acts) tells us, "...John left them and returned to Jerusalem" (13:13)
 - Luke then starts referring to this team of teachers as "Paul and Barnabas" (13:43-52)
- Barnabas and Paul at Lystra and Derbe (Acts 14:8-18)
 - "And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed." (Acts 14:23)
- Question about circumcision and salvation in Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-33)
- Acts 15:35 "But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also."
- Barnabas encourages and stands up for taking John _____ (Acts 15:36-41)
- 2nd Journey of Paul documented by Luke in Acts without Barnabas

Barnabas gave in to hypocrisy along with Peter (Galatians 2:11-13)

- Peter knew better due to the vision and Cornelius Acts 10.
- Barnabas did not live his life perfectly
- Barnabas we not a hypocrite against Gentile believers until following Peter's lead

Last mention of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10)

- (John) Mark was to be welcomed by the church in Colossae.
- "Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry." (2 Timothy 4:11)

III. Lessons from Barnabas...

- Barnabas thought of others and wanted to help
- Barnabas was _____ in his giving, teaching and support
- Barnabas was willing to _____ when he was sent
- Barnabas _____ up for Saul, John Mark and others (Acts 9, Acts 15)
- Barnabas lived a life of humility

IV. Be a Barnabas

- Look for a need that you can meet and _____ it.
- Encourage fellow workers and teachers in the church
- Bring _____ along who can learn and teach
- Live and work for the Lord's glory, _____ your own
- Be humble enough to step into the _____
- Develop and encourage _____
- Show forbearance for others as they grow or disagree
- Be humble even when you realize you were _____

"Your nickname is tied to what you're know for"