

## AN ENCOURAGER

Text: Acts 4:36-37

INTRO: The name Barnabas means "Son of Encouragement" (NKJV). The old KJV says "Son of Consolation. Some translations say "Son of Exhortation." The Gr. word translated encouragement, consolation, or exhortation comes from a combination of words meaning to call to one's side. Barnabas called others to his side that he might encourage, console, or exhort them.

The term "son of" is frequently used to describe a prominent characteristic of the person being described. LK 10:6, son of peace. Eph. 2:2, sons of disobedience. LK 16:8, sons of light.

To say that Barnabas was a son of encouragement is to say that one of his prominent characteristics was to be an encourager to any and all who were seeking to do what is right.

Assuming that we, too, would like to be of encouragement to those who are seeking to serve God, what characteristics might we learn from Barnabas that would help us to be children of encouragement.

### I. AN ENCOURAGER IS WILLING TO GIVE OF SELF & OF POSSESSIONS FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.

ACTS 4:36-37; 1 CORINTHIANS 9:4-6

### II. AN ENCOURAGER IS WILLING TO GIVE FOLKS ANOTHER CHANCE.

A. 39 A.D., ACTS 9:26-27

B. ACTS 13:13 (45 A.D.); 15:36-39 (50 A.D.)

### III. AN ENCOURAGER WILL GIVE OF HIMSELF TO HELP NEW CONVERTS GROW IN FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE.

ACTS 11:19-23

### IV. AN ENCOURAGER ALLOWS THE LORD TO USE HIM IN HELPING OTHERS BECOME CHRISTIANS.

ACTS 11:24; 13:1-5

### V. AN ENCOURAGER IS WILLING TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY

BILITY, THE LIME LIGHT, THE CREDIT, WITH OTHERS.

ACTS 11:25-27. There is almost no limit to how much good we could do if we don't care who gets the credit.

VI. AN ENCOURAGER IS INTERESTED IN THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN HIMSELF.

- A. On his first appearance in the Scriptures, Acts 4:37.
- B. About 12-14 years later, ACTS 11:27-30.

VII. AN ENCOURAGER STANDS UP FOR THOSE WHO ARE BEING MALIGNED AND MISJUDGED.

ACTS 15:1-2, 12; GALATIANS 2:9-10

VIII. AN ENCOURAGER CONTINUES TO ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE USEFUL EVEN WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE AND PLANS GO AWRY.

ACTS 15:39-40.

CONCLUSION: More men like Barnabas will always be needed in the church. Be a Barnabas. Be an encourager.

Exton, PA, December 24, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 1, 1995

Alief, TX, March 3, 1999 (meting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, May 16, 1999