

His given name: Joseph. He sold his property for the mission of the Church. Such charity, the reason the Apostles name him, "Barnabas," name means "son of encouragement."

Barnabas, works with Paul, Mark in Antioch; where the Christians were first named Christian. The simple reality Barnabas preached, sent under the Church's authority to preach the Gospel of Jesus. And by God's grace, the Church grew. What was true then, for Barnabas -is still true for preachers today; the mission of the Church: for the Gospel rightly proclaimed in its truth, purity, the Sacraments administered as Jesus instituted, instructed. What a gracious example for us to follow! Putting no faith in himself, rather only in the power of the Word of God. The only hope for sinners, for the sick, the lost, the only place of true life, real love; in a dark and evil world of sin and death. That is the miracle of the Gospel. That is the power of preaching. Still today.

Luke, in the Book of Acts, titles Barnabas 'apostle' like only the 12 and Paul; tradition he may have been of the 72 Jesus sent out; Luke describes Barnabas as a **good man full of the Holy Spirit**. Called in Scripture a **good man**, which is astounding.

How do people describe you? When they hear your name, what words, adjectives come to mind? How are you described? Not the self-flattery you think. Be honest, how do others describe you; think of; when they hear your name? If we're honest with ourselves, we've a lot of work to do to be called good, to be described by others as the people we should be. You've lived as if God did not matter and if you matter most. Your Lord's Name you have not honored as you should so your worship and prayer have faltered. You have not let His love have its way with you and so your love for others has failed. There are those you have hurt and those you have failed to help. Your thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. Repent.

What's in your name? And if men slander and hate your name because of Christ's name. Expect it. It puts us in good company. Men hated Barnabas, all the apostles because they preached salvation in no other name; Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins. Doctrine divides. That's part of the cross Barnabas bore as well every faithful pastor; that people would hear, rightly divide law and gospel, in absolute, unchanging truth of the Word, without demands of good works and proof of faith –for the pure joy of absolutely free forgiveness and acceptance by the Father through the sacrifice of the Son alone. What it's all about. Barnabas would not compromise the Gospel in the tiniest detail for the sake of peace between

men, for his safety, or shallow vanity that would gain the love of the world. And he was killed for it.

How have you honored your family name? Even more how have you honored His name you bear.

What's in your name? Some of you have looked into your family name, history, done some research, what your name means, family trees. Do you know there are only 200 Uhlmansieks in the world, only 200 Kalebaughs, only 500 Dedekes, about 1000 Middlemas, less than 1500 Scharnhorst, 1000 bohndorfs in the world and we are stuck with a few of them. But how sad there's only 1800 Weinkauf's on the planet. Kauf means to buy, Weinkauf means wine merchant, as we like to think or perhaps it was named after the town drunk who buys too much wine. We love to romanticized our good name, we all want a good name, to be called 'good.'

What's in your name? What does it mean? It means this. A sinner, a complainer, greedy to not give too much to be inconvenienced; means a liar, a failure, idolater, a cheat, someone broken, someone struggling with sin. That's what names of men mean. They never live up to the romantized version, always honorable, great family name.

What's in your name? What does it mean? It means this. Saint, holy. You are His. He named you, adopted in baptism waters. Your name grants you the right, privilege of an inheritance far greater than anything this world has to offer. You, uniquely you, by name, your thoughts, prayers draw the attention of the Creator of the Universe who attends to your prayers and needs. You are cared for, loved as any saint or martyr ever been born. Your name, your very name, written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

So what if your name isn't Rockefeller, Musk, Zuckerberg, Bezos, Buffett, Walton, Gates. Don't you realize each day you've been given more wealth, more treasure, more family, than all those people combined.

Your heritage is the Lord Himself and His Holy Name. His provision by grace within the household, family of His Church. Not land or wealth, nor privilege, popularity, or prestige, but the Gospel is your treasure. The wealth of His kingdom poured out here and a family you can't begin to count. What's in a name, your name? You're all a Barnabas, child of encouragement. Support the mission of the Church. Encourage one another in these times. They need it. You need it. Like Barnabas, not to seek fame or glory for your name but living in grace, bask in His forgiveness, declaring the only Name under heaven that truly matter. That is your true baptized identity. Like up to your name, His name. You bear the name of the Christ. He calls you good only because you are forgiven, In the name of Jesus...