

THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Time of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church

THE BARNABAS MINISTRY

Acts 11:25-26

²⁵ Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. ²⁶ He found Saul and brought him to Antioch, where they met with the church for a whole year and taught many of its people. There in Antioch the Lord's followers were first called Christians.



THE BARNABAS MINISTRY

Everyone knows about Paul. He has been named one of the 10 most influential persons in history. But few people appreciate Barnabas. Yet, without Barnabas, we may never have had Paul.

Let's see why...



WHO WAS BARNABAS?

Barnabas was a Jew, from the priestly tribe of Levi, who had been born in the island of Cypress and was wealthy enough to own land.

He was generous with his money and loved to help people. In fact, he had such a positive and encouraging disposition that, after joining the church, he was nicknamed “encourager” or Barnabas.



BARNABAS, THE ENCOURAGER

Acts 4:33-37

³³ In a powerful way the apostles told everyone that the Lord Jesus was now alive. God greatly blessed his followers, ³⁴ and no one went in need of anything. Everyone who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money ³⁵ to the apostles. Then they would give the money to anyone who needed it. ³⁶⁻³⁷ **Joseph** was one of the followers who had **sold a piece of property and brought the money to the apostles**. He was a Levite from Cyprus, and the apostles called him **Barnabas**, which means “**one who encourages others.**”



**If you were nicknamed
for your attitude,
what would your
nickname be?**

BARNABAS, THE VOUCHER

Acts 9:26-28

26 When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the followers. But they were all afraid of him, because they did not believe he was a true follower. **27** Then Barnabas helped him by taking him to the apostles. He explained how Saul had seen the Lord and how the Lord had spoken to him. Barnabas also said that when Saul was in Damascus, he had spoken bravely in the name of Jesus. **28** Saul moved about freely with the followers in Jerusalem and told everyone about the Lord.



BARNABAS, THE VOUCHER

When no one believed in Saul,
Barnabas did!

Barnabas vouched for Saul
and used his name and
influence to guarantee Saul's
acceptance among the
church in Jerusalem.



BARNABAS IN ANTIOCH

Acts 11:19-24

¹⁹ Some of the Lord's followers had been scattered because of the terrible trouble that started when Stephen was killed. They went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, but **they told the message only to the Jews.** ²⁰ Some of the followers from Cyprus and Cyrene went to Antioch and **started telling Gentiles** the good news about the Lord Jesus.



BARNABAS IN ANTIOCH

Acts 11:19-24

²¹ The Lord's power was with them, and many people turned to the Lord and put their faith in him. ²² News of what was happening reached the church in Jerusalem.

Then they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When Barnabas got there and saw what God had been kind enough to do for them, he was very glad. So he begged them to remain faithful to the Lord with all their hearts.

²⁴ **Barnabas was a good man of great faith, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit.** Many more people turned to the Lord.

BARNABAS THE PEACEMAKER

The church was growing and the Gospel was spreading.

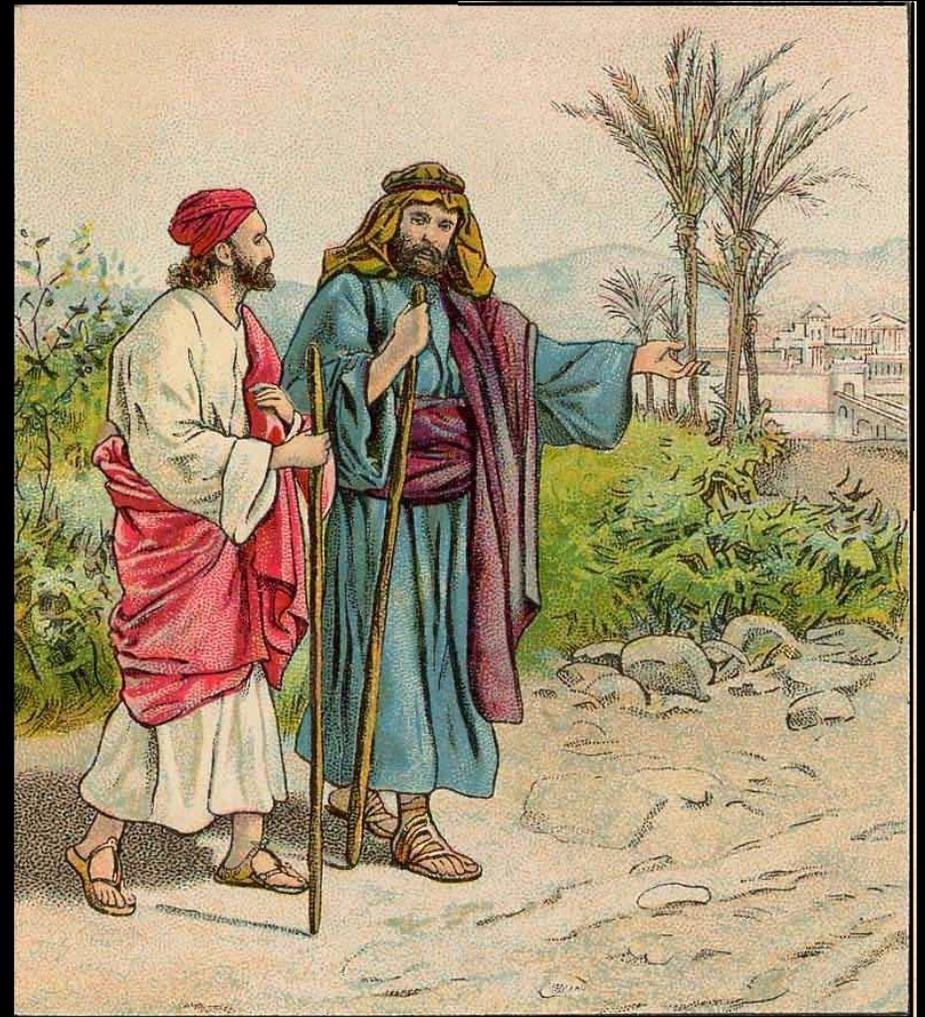
But when there was the prospect of conflict and trouble, the Apostles sent Barnabas to the rescue!



BARNABAS, THE MENTOR

Acts 11:25-26

²⁵ Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. ²⁶ He found Saul and brought him to Antioch, where they met with the church for a whole year and taught many of its people. There in Antioch the Lord's followers were first called Christians.



BARNABAS, THE MENTOR

Barnabas went out of his way to find Saul and bring him to a healthy and vibrant church, where Saul could learn and teach, receive and give. Barnabas invited Saul to walk together with him.

It was here that Saul became Paul and received his commission as an Apostle.



BARNABAS, THE SUPPORTER

Acts 11:27-30

²⁷ During this time some prophets from Jerusalem came to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them was Agabus. Then with the help of the Spirit, he told that there would be a terrible famine everywhere in the world. And it happened when Claudius was Emperor. ²⁹ The followers in Antioch decided to send whatever help they could to the followers in Judea. ³⁰ So **they had Barnabas and Saul take their gifts to the church leaders in Jerusalem.**

FROM SAUL TO PAUL

Acts 13:1-3

The church at Antioch had several prophets and teachers. They were **Barnabas, Simeon**, also called **Niger, Lucius** from Cyrene, **Manaen**, who was Herod's close friend, and **Saul**.² While they were **worshiping** the Lord and **going without eating**, the **Holy Spirit told them, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul to do the work for which I have chosen them."**³ Everyone prayed and went without eating for a while longer. Next, they placed their hands on Barnabas and Saul to show that they had been appointed to do this work. Then everyone sent them on their way.

NO BARNABAS, NO PAUL

Paul would become the greatest evangelist of his generation and the author of two thirds of the New Testament. He brought the gospel to Europe, planted churches throughout Asia and Europe, and trained the next generation of leaders for the church. More importantly, he became the main interpreter of the message of Jesus Christ.

Yet, without a Barnabas, without an encourager, it is unlikely he would have become Paul.

THE MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Hebrews 10:23-25

²⁴ We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things. ²⁵ Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. **We should keep on encouraging each other**, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.

LET US BE AN ENCOURAGER!

