

BEING ENCOURAGERS

Acts 11:19-26 • May 22, 2022

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I. INTRODUCTION

Barnabas' name means Son of Encouragement (Acts 4:36), one who comes along side - just like the Holy Spirit is described in John 14:26.

“Responding to the Great Commission by encouraging unchurched people to join us as we become fully devoted followers of Christ.” - SCC Vision and Mission

A. An Encourager is called to help in messy situations

They sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

— Acts 11:22-23

- Jesus leaned in toward people and ask them to come and see his life (John 1:39)
- Jesus was made like his brothers and sisters in every way and is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. (Hebrews 2:17,4:14-16)

B. An Encourager builds trust

When Saul (later called Paul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

— Acts 9:26-28

“Until a framework of distrust is shifted, growth is nearly impossible... We face a context whose default is distrust.”

“What most of our friends have told us is that the process of coming to faith really gained traction for them once they started to significantly trust a Christian.”

Quoted from I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Seekers Taught Us About Their Path to Jesus, by Don Everts & Doug Schaupp

“Well done, my good servant!” his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’”

— Luke 19:17

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

— Acts 11:24

C. An Encourager takes the time to interact and invest.

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

— Acts 11:25- 26

D. An Encourager sees people through

Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him [Mark], because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus.

— Acts 15:36-39

- Paul later on says...

***My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)
— Colossians 4:10***

CONCLUSION

Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

- Hebrews 3:13