

# BARNABAS: A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

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# Encouragement Defined

“Let us **consider** how we may **spur** one another on toward love and good deeds.”

# A Corporate Culture of Encouragement

“All the believers were in one heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power, the apostles continued to testify to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all, that there was no needy person among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold, them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostle’s feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.”

# A Corporate Culture of Encouragement

“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas, which means “**son of encouragement**”, sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostle’s feet.”

# An Encourager seeks out anyone

“When he (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.”

# An Encourager raises up people

“Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, spreading the Word only among Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.”

# An Encourager raises up people

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“News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and 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. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.”

# An Encourager raises up people

“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. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”



# An Encourager doesn't give up

“Some time later 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 was wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.”

# An Encourager doesn't give up

“They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”

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# An Encourager doesn't give up

“Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.”



# APPLICATION



**From your past, who do you need to thank?**

**Right now, who can you encourage today?**