



### Lesson #3: Minister's of Encouragement (Barnabas)

In the book of Acts there is a story about an intriguing character whose reputation was build on the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_. When he was born his parents named him "Joses" but when he was born again his peers nicknamed him "Barnabas." The name "Barnabas" literally manes "\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_." Barnabas had the unique ability to lift people up and help them take the next spiritual step.

Together, I want us to look at 5 different characterstics of a truly encouraging person. We are going to do a little survey of Barnabas and learn how everybody can be a man or woman of encouragement.

#### 1. Ministers of Encouragement Give \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 4:36-37)

Barnabas, living on the island of Cyprus, decided to sell a piece of property so that he could \_\_\_\_\_ in people's lives. Instead of selling the property and putting the money in the First National Bank of Cyprus, he sold the property and invested in the First Church of \_\_\_\_\_.

There is a place where you can invest and the dividends are eternal and that is in the work of the ministry (Luke 6:38; Matthew 6:19-20). When God gives, He gives to you so that you can give to others. You can be a blessing by contribution! Don't \_\_\_\_\_ it, \_\_\_\_\_ it, and you can be a blessing that will touch someone else's eternity.

#### 2. Ministers of Encouragement Give \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 9:26-27)

Saul had made a confession of faith and many in the church were saying, "Yah sure! Like I'm going to trust that terrorist. He's probably just trying to sneak in here so he can kill us." Acts 9:27 tells us that Barnabas stood before the congregation and declared testimony of Paul's \_\_\_\_\_. Barnabas becomes Paul's campaign manager, if you will, and helped him get into church's so that people actually trusted him.

There is still a need for this kind of ministry today! We need to make the effort and take time to reach out to those around us who seem \_\_\_\_\_ or who have been \_\_\_\_\_ by others. This is especially true in the church. We should do our best to make everyone who comes to this place feel as if they belong here are are accepted.

#### 3. Ministers of Encouragement Give \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 11:19-23)

God was moving in a powerful way. Now the Gentiles were being converted in the early church. Word reaches the main office in Jerusalem that down in Antioch God was moving so they decided to check it out. They send Barnabas down to see what's going on. I love his response – "When he came, and had seen the grace of God, [he] was \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 11:23).

Minister's of encouragement are characterized by just that – encouragement! You aren't going to accomplish much for God \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. You need to learn the power of positive motivation.

#### 4. Ministers of Encouragement Give \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 11:25)

Barnabas was totally aware that the work God was doing in Antioch and through Paul was going off the charts. People were getting saved by the boatloads. And so he goes down to Tarsus, knocks on the door, and says, "Where can I serve?" Barnabas goes further in his encouragement of Paul than just an affirmation, he also gave his \_\_\_\_\_. He was there to help when needed. "Ministers of Encouragement" always show up when there is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Who have you pushed forward spiritually? Who have you helped take the next step step? You'll find that Barnabas had in mind pushing Paul to the forefront. In other words, Barnabas was helping Paul become a major \_\_\_\_\_ in the church of Jesus Christ. That's a true servant! A true servant \_\_\_\_\_ himself for the \_\_\_\_\_ of someone else.

#### 5. Ministers of Encouragement Give \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 15:35-36)

Apparently, sometime before this John Mark had left Paul and Barnabas in the middio of another missionary journey. We read about this episdoe in Acts 13:13. Now, Paul and Barnabas are ready to go again and Barnabas wants to take John Mark along to give him a second chance. Paul disagree. But notice the effect of Barnabas' encouragement and compassion to John Mark. This will be the last time we read about Barnabas but his ministry to John Mark had far reaching consequences! Before Paul died in Rome, he requested that \_\_\_\_\_ be sent to him because "he is \_\_\_\_\_ to me fo rhte \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Timothy 4:11).

What a truth for us if we are to be minister's of encouragement! How many times have we seen fellow believers fall by the wayside? Our natural tendency is to wash our hands of them and go on. God's plan is different! We are not to kick our brother when he is down but to help him be \_\_\_\_\_ to the place of fellowship and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Concluding Thoughts

How about you? Wouldn't you like to be remembered as an \_\_\_\_\_? The church needs people like Barnabas. It has plenty of people who are wet blankets. One person refered to them as the \_\_\_\_\_ – always pouring cold water on others. Let's make a commitment to see the Barnabas effect at work here! We need some more encouragers!