

Morning Lesson

SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Acts 4:36

INTRO:

1. There are many interesting characters in scripture.
2. There are those that are rarely center stage.
3. Barnabas was one of these.
4. Barnabas provided much harmony in the early church through his efforts to encourage those around him.

I. HIS BACKGROUND.

- A. His given name was Joseph or Joses (KJV), but the name given him by the apostles superseded the original. **Acts 4:36**
- B. He was a Levite born in Cyprus.
- C. His cousin, John Mark, was from Jerusalem. **Col. 4:10; Acts 13:13**
- D. No record of his conversion, but he showed his generosity as an early member of the Jerusalem congregation by sharing with those in need. **Acts 4:36, 37**
- E. He proved himself a "son of encouragement" by courageously befriending Paul and introducing him to other Christians. **Acts 9:26, 27**

II. CO-WORKER WITH PAUL.

- A. When news of the truth spreading to Antioch reached Jerusalem, they sent Barnabas to go assist in this work. **Acts 11:19-24**
- B. He saw there a place that Paul could use his talents, so he went and found him. **Acts 11:25**
- C. They made an effective team and many people were taught and obeyed. **Acts 11:26**
- D. Notice the order. **Acts 11:29,30; 13:1; 13:2,3; 13:7; 13:13; 13:43, 46, 50; 15:2, 35; 15:12, 25**
- E. The great thing about Barnabas is that whether he was first or second, God was first with him and he continued to encourage everywhere he went.

CONC:

1. There is no doubt that the church needs great men like Paul to be out front leading the charge.
2. But without the encouragement of Barnabas, Paul may have never become the great apostle that we know.
3. We are all frail humans, capable of, even prone to, making mistakes.