

LESSONS ON ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE LIFE OF BARNABAS

At some point in all of our lives we need some form of encouragement whether we want to admit it or not. If anyone says differently they are putting themselves above many great men of the Bible especially Jesus himself. When someone mentions the words encouragement and Bible together you cannot help but think of Barnabas. Even his name shows this aspect of him (Acts 4:36). Not a great deal is known of him from the scripture, however, the things we do find in God's Word are treasures that can fill many volumes of books concerning his devoted attention to encouragement. Let's look at a few.

First, to give. That's right. In Acts 4:37 the Bible says, *"Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet."* He gave everything to God. This is where true encouragement begins, right? We can't expect people to come to us or to heed our words if they do not see us living the way we are supposed to live. A father and mother needs strength because of the financial battle they are a part of...what can you tell them? Can you tell them to trust in God when you may not have put your total faith and trust in him as well. We all must heed the words of Jesus when he tells us to "seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). Should we not give completely to God our hearts...our souls...our might? (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Second, to forgive. Remember, it was Barnabas that forgave Paul (formerly Saul) to the point that he did not look back at all of his "past sins" (cf. Acts 8:1-3) as others did (Acts 9:26). Barnabas took it upon himself to make a case for Paul to make sure that nothing hindered him from speaking the gospel. (Acts 9:27-29) Are we willing to look over someone's past sins when one has

repented? If we want to **receive** forgiveness then we better learn to **give** forgiveness. Matthew 6:14 says, *"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:"* It is impossible to forget someone's wrongdoings (unless that person has a bad memory) because of human nature however, we certainly do not need to bring it up to that person or anyone else for that fact.

Third, to be humble. In Acts 11 we find Barnabas being sent to the church at Antioch to encourage them to continue in their good works. (Acts 11:19-23) So here you have a minister being sent to encourage a group of believers (could be mostly young converts). How would you feel? Most would have a big boost in their ego. What a feeling...the "preacher" has come to stand at our feet and give us words of wisdom. Is that what Barnabas does? Well we see he does encourage them to cleave to the Lord (11:23) but what else does he do? Listen to verse 25 & 26. *"Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year **they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**"* Barnabas probably had those people "eating out of his hand" and he chooses to bring in another "spiritually young" Christian to partake of the "glory. That sounds like someone who does not care about having the "glory" but giving the glory...sharing the excitement...helping someone else. What an example of unselfishness & humility. How many preachers need to read that story again? We need to get away from wanting center stage to wanting Christ's kingdom broadened. Do you think you have all the answers...the best speaking ability...the flawless character? Barnabas may have had all those things and more but he chose to take backstage to further

the kingdom of God. He might have thought Paul had a better speaking ability. Paul was even called the "chief speaker" in Acts 14:12. This did not cause jealousy on Barnabas' part (cf. the switching of names in Acts 13:1 and 13:32). Paul may have seen this strong character trait because later he encourages us to "put on...humbleness of mind." (Colossians 3:12)

Lastly, to be supportive. In Acts 15 starting at verse 37, we find that Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them on their journey but Paul was reluctant. Why? When Barnabas and Paul were at Pamphylia, Mark deserted them and the work. Paul has a point doesn't he? Who would want to allow someone to go with them who had already left them with all the work? Barnabas never gave up on Mark and was very supportive to him and his calling to spread the gospel. Have you ever given up on someone? How many times has someone come to you wanting you to pray with them about a reoccurring problem they have struggled with in the past? How do you treat someone that did you wrong in some way or another? We are all blessed to this day because of Mark and his writing of his gospel account. We find out later that Mark was with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24). Paul spoke of Mark positively to young Timothy, *"He is profitable to me for the ministry."* (2 Timothy 4:11) (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14; 2 Thessalonians 2:17; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9; Hebrews 3:13; 10:25)

Let us conclude with this thought. Paul needed Barnabas (Acts 11:22- 26)...Barnabas needed Paul (Galatians 2:11-21)...we need each other. Be an encourager every day.

Brian Gentle from Vigil

ANNIVERSARY

Steven and Debbie Schleif, 04-01.

BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Edwards, 03-28; Clara Scott, 03-29;
Steven Schleif, 04-01; Brooke Nemechek, 04-03.

ILL

Sunday: Jennifer Carter; Millie Robertson.

Wednesday: Janice & Jennifer Carter; Millie Robertson.

Ralph Franklin is in Room D9 at the Evergreen Center.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to David Parish and his family in the passing of his uncle, Tom Parish, on Thursday, March 25 in Chicago. They are in Davenport, IA this weekend and will be traveling to Chicago for the funeral later this week.

OUT OF TOWN

Mrs. Leah Thrasher is in Missouri this weekend for the Ladies Day at Belle. Chris Edwards was out of town last week on business. Erin Stillwell was visiting in Blue Springs, MO on Wednesday evening.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, April 4, following our AM worship.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 32; Sunday PM, 26; Wednesday PM, 24.

Those To Serve

March 28, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Stanley Anderson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... Joel Nelson
ASSIST..... Steven Schleif
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter
LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards

WEDNESDAY 31st

SONG LEADER.....Fifth Wednesday Singing
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecofc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp