

## Snapshots in Acts: The Power of the Spirit in the Life of a Believer

### Week 3 ~ Homework: Barnabas ~ The Encourager

#### Day 1: Who is this Barnabas?

- Read Acts 4:36-37 and 11:22-24
  - Make a list of everything you learn about Barnabas, including the meaning of his name.
- Now read the context in Acts 4: Acts 4:32-37
  - Make a list of attributes of the early church
  - Why do you think Barnabas was singled out here?
- Read the following verses on Encouragement. Record your insights.
  - Colossians 4:7-13
  - Philippians 2:1-4
  - Hebrews 11:23-25
  - In light of these verses, now why do you think Barnabas was singled out in Acts 4:36 & 37.

#### Day 2: What if Barnabas had looked the other way?

- Read Acts 9:1-28
- What did Barnabas do for Saul that made a difference in how people perceived this former persecutor of Christians? Why was this risky? Why do you think Barnabas went out on a limb for Saul?
- What if Barnabas had not seen Saul's true change? We will be exploring Saul's story later in our study but if you know that Saul was also known as an apostle named Paul then you realize the magnitude of what Barnabas did. What if Barnabas had kept what he knew to himself? How do you know that Barnabas was acting in the power of the Holy Spirit here? In other words, what had Barnabas observed that he was able to witness to the apostles about Saul's conversion?
- Journal exercise: Have you ever seen a change in someone like the one Barnabas observed in Saul? Did you tell that person that you had observed a change in them? How can you practice encouraging others when you see significant changes in their lives.
- Do you know someone who personally encourages you? Spend the rest your time today thanking God for their ministry to you. What is one thing you can do this week to show them that what they do makes a difference to you? Make time this week to encourage them back!

Days 3& 4: Everyone needs a ministry partner like Barnabas.

- Read Acts 11:19-30. What was the result of Barnabas' encouragement to the believers at Antioch?
- Why did Barnabas go to Tarsus? Who did he find there? Where did they go after he found him? What did the church at Antioch commission the pair to do?
- Read Acts 12:25. What did Barnabas and Saul do when they had fulfilled their mission? Who did they bring with them? Look up Colossians 4:10 to gain insight as to the relationship between this person and Barnabas.
- Read Acts 13 & 14. Summarize the relationship between Barnabas and Saul/Paul. What type of ministry were they engaged in? How might an encourager like Barnabas be useful in this type of ministry?
- As you read these last two chapters, did you notice anything about the effectiveness of their ministry together? How successful was their ministry?

Day 5: Where, O where has Barnabas gone?

- Read Acts 15:35-41 and Acts 13:13. What happened at Antioch? Why? What caused Barnabas to react the way that he did? Why did Paul insist on having his way? What might an encourager like Barnabas think of Paul's attitude toward John Mark? (Also remember the relationship between Barnabas and John Mark.) What might Paul have done instead if he had heeded his own words? (see day 1)
- The event that transpired here between Paul and Barnabas occurred just before Paul left for his second missionary journey. Paul had not yet written any of his epistles. However it is at this time that Paul sends a letter to the church at Galatia. Read Galatians 1 & 2.
- In verses 1:6-7, what issue is Paul addressing with the Colossians? In verse 2:13, in what behavior did Paul say Barnabas was engaging? Re-read chapter 2:14-21. Explain the nature of this hypocrisy.
- In week one, we talked about cultivating a life in the Spirit and behaviors that quenched a life in the Spirit. Which was Barnabas seemingly doing at this point?
- Although we hear little else about Barnabas in the rest of Scripture (remembering that Paul wrote a majority of the New Testament,) we do get a glimpse into how things eventually turned out between Paul and John Mark. Record your observations from reading Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11, and Philemon 1:24.
- Have you ever known someone who seemed vitally active in ministry and then for some reason just dropped out of their activity? What might have happened if Paul had reciprocated Barnabas' kindness, as when he left the church at Antioch briefly to find Paul in Tarsus? Jot down your thoughts on how to encourage the 'encouragers' in your life who may become discouraged from time to time.

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