

## Barnabas

Patrick Hellberg ~ January 17, 2010

Joseph named Barnabas

Acts 4:36-37

Son of encouragement: "What am I known for? What do people call me? What will be the inscription on my gravestone?"

Levite – a Jew

Native of Cyprus – this is where Barnabas ended up having his ministry

Sold everything: Where do we find this kind of devotion?

After Paul was saved and came back to Jerusalem people were afraid of him.

Acts 9:26

But Barnabas was not afraid, and brought Paul to the Apostles.

Acts 9:27

What would have happened with Christianity if Barnabas had not brought Paul here? And why was the "son of encouragement" not afraid like the others?

Acts 11:20-30

The Church in Jerusalem trusted Barnabas to go to Antioch to find the facts about the situation

Church in Antioch trusted Barnabas with money!

Barnabas sent for a guy that had been so much pain for the churches, a guy no one trusted, a guy that had been away from ministry in his own town. Why did the "son of encouragement" keep on interacting with, trusting and teaching this bad, bad guy? The church in Antioch trusted Barnabas, the big shot from Jerusalem, with money. Barnabas trusted a really "bad guy" with money.

Acts 13:1

Barnabas was a prophet and a teacher. I believe Barnabas being a prophet is really a key. Barnabas had seen Paul, not like the others saw Paul but as God saw Paul. How do we look at people? Do we look at them seeing their history and failures? Prophetic gifting enables Barnabas to trust a really "bad guy".

Notice the order of the names, so far Barnabas' name is always mentioned first until Acts 13:13 (Paul and his company – including Barnabas). People were now looking at Paul and not Barnabas.

1. Barnabas saw Paul with the calling God had for him. Others looked at Paul and saw only his history.
2. Barnabas let Paul “pass him up” in ministry. Barnabas did not look at his own ministry but to the Kingdom of God.

Now Barnabas needed a new project, John Mark.

Acts 12:25

We meet this John Mark first time in Acts 12:12, a young boy living at home with his mom.

In Acts 12:25 John Mark gets to go with his older cousin, Barnabas (Col 4:10), and the other guy, Paul on their travels.

Acts 13:5 we see that John Mark got to go with them on Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> mission trip.

Next time we see John Mark is in one of his worst moments in ministry, Acts 13:13. John Mark got enough and went home to mom in Jerusalem. Being on Paul’s mission trips was not so easy...

John Mark was the cause of Paul and Barnabas big argument in Acts 15:36-41. Where Barnabas wanted to bring John Mark on the 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary trip but Paul thought of John Mark as useless because he had left them before.

Barnabas saw the plans God had for John Mark. Paul saw the history that John Mark had.

Barnabas took John Mark to Cyprus and because Acts is about Paul we don’t see John Mark again in this book. But...

There are other references to a Mark which I believe is this very John Mark we just met.

15 years later Paul writes his final letter from his imprisonment in Rome. Let’s see what Barnabas’ encouragement has done with John Mark.

2 Tim 4:11. Mark is very useful!!!!

Mark went to Rome to Paul and at the same time Peter was there. Possibly Mark spent time with Peter and (remember that Peter went to John Mark’s house in Jerusalem in Acts 12:12). From this Mark wrote down the accounts of Jesus – the gospel of Mark. Mark 14:51-52.

Barnabas saw God’s calling on Paul’s life. He encouraged Paul even when no one else trusted him.

Barnabas saw God’s calling on Mark’s life and encouraged him.

These 2 men are very important to our history.

How do we look at people? Do you see people’s mistakes and history, or are you looking at their future potential and encouraging them to go in that direction?