

BARNABAS: THE MAN WITH THE BEST NICKNAME!

Acts 4:36 And Joses (Ιωσήφ), who by the apostles was surnamed **Barnabas (Βαρνάβας)**, (which is, being interpreted, **The son of consolation (υἱὸς παρακλήσεως)**), a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Acts 4:37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

My favorite nickname: Barnabas!

Real name: Joses/Joseph

The apostles nicknamed Barnabas!

Bar = Aramaic for son. Son of = characterized by

Barnabas = son of encouragement. A broad word for to encourage, to comfort, to challenge, to exhort,...

- **This was who he was**
- **This was what he did**
- **This was how he lived**

LONG BEFORE THE NICKNAME WAS given to him by the apostles

1. Sharing what he had!

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This concept &/ description would follow him his entire life: sharing, caring, handing over...

This can be most anything: a note, a text, a verse, a quote, a meal, a treat

Anything you have learned / anything you possess

We can't all...

We can all...

2. Making an introduction!

Acts 9:23 And after that many days were fulfilled, **the Jews took counsel to kill him: Acts 9:24** But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night **to kill him.**

Acts 9:25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

Acts 9:26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, **he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but** they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

Acts 9:27 But Barnabas **took him, and brought him** to the apostles, and **declared** unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Acts 9:28 And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

Paul was in between the proverbial rock and a hard place. Can't go forward and can't go backward!

Jews:

Christians:

NO BARNABAS = NO PAUL

3. Giving some encouragement!

Acts 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

Acts 11:22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: **and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Acts 11:23** Who, when he came, and **had seen** the grace of God, **was glad, and exhorted (παρεκάλει)** them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Good things happening in Antioch. Who do they send? What does he do?

4. Developing a relationship!

Acts 11:24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto

the Lord. Acts 11:25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, **for to seek Saul:** Acts 11:26 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.

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.** Acts 13:3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

An encourager:

- You work with him – not for him!
- There is always an “us” - never a me, my, mine...
- It's **always** about the mission and **never** about the man

5 Having a disputation!

Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, **ye cannot be saved.** Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question...Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, **That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.**

Peter responded: 15:7-11	Barnabas & Paul responded: 15:12
James responded: 15:13-18	The Churches concluded!!!

6. Causing a division!

Acts 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. Acts 15:37 And **Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.** Acts 15:38 **But Paul thought not good** to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. Acts 15:39 **And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other:** and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; Acts 15:40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed...Acts 15:41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Who was right? Who was wrong?

Or, a better question: **What were the actual results?**

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

Philemon 24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. **Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.**

1 Peter 5:13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; **and so doth Marcus my son.**

Results:

- More mission teams
- Broader mission support: both Peter & Paul
- The Gospel of Mark