

BARNABAS — HE WHO MET THE NEED

By Don Walker

As far as we know, the first introduction we have to Barnabas is found in Acts chapter 4. In this chapter we learn that his given name was Joses and he was a Levite from Cyprus. We also learn that the apostles “surnamed [him] Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation)” (Acts 4:36). If the name was given because of Barnabas’ character, and most likely it was, then he was an encourager. Barnabas was one who met the needs of others. We mentioned that, as far as we know, this is the first mention of Barnabas in Scripture. We state it this way, because Jewish legend (which often had its origin in truth) says that Barnabas was the same man as the rich young ruler which caused sorrow to the Lord upon their encounter, because he walked away sorrowfully having much goods. Be that as it may, Barnabas whose life as revealed in Scripture is certainly worthy of our attention. His was of sterling character.

Concerning Barnabas, we remember that when the brethren were fearful and questioning Saul of Tarsus and his conversion, it was Barnabas who was there to meet the need. Luke records,

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. 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 9:26,27).

In the eighth chapter of Acts, we learn of a great persecution upon the church that resulted in the brethren being scattered abroad. Verse 8 tells us that “they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.” Later Luke records these words:

Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord (Acts 11:19-21).

With this great number of conversions arose a need for further teaching and instruction. Continuing in this context, we learn of Barnabas’ role:

When 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. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he

was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord (Acts 11:22-24).

After that, Barnabas would depart to Tarsus, “for to seek Saul” (Acts 11:25). From there he would continue with the apostle Paul in their evangelistic effort. Surely we are impressed by the fact that he had a good and honest heart which obeyed the gospel and produced much fruit.

Barnabas also had a great concern for the brethren. The very name that was given to him by the apostles in Acts 4 indicates there was a strong love for the brethren within this saint. His willingness to sell a field and give the proceeds to the apostles to meet the needs that were present indicates the brethren were foremost in his mind (Acts 4:36, 37). His willingness to stand up for the apostle Paul in the beginning shows great concern for the brethren. It seems whenever we see a glimpse of Barnabas in Scripture, it is in a context where he is doing something for someone else. Though there are many other examples we could present and develop in thought, one example stands out in our mind, which we believe is worthy of our attention. In Acts 15, after the conference discussing circumcision and the keeping of the law, Paul and Barnabas continued teaching in Antioch for a space of time (Acts 15:35). It was at this time that Paul determined it would be good to go back and visit every city where they had preached the gospel and see how the brethren were doing (v. 36). Yet,

of Paul and Barnabas it says “a contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other” (v. 39). The contention was over whether or not John Mark should accompany them on this journey. Paul thought it not good because John Mark had “departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work” (v. 38). Silas thus would travel with Paul and Barnabas would travel to Cyprus with John Mark. Just as Barnabas had once stood with Paul when he was in need and desired to number himself with the brethren, he now stood with John Mark when Paul would have no part of it. One must wonder how this must have affected John Mark and also how it may have affected Paul. It was later that the apostle would call for John Mark saying “for he is profitable to me for the ministry” (2 Tim. 4: 11). Without question, Barnabas was one who had great concern for the brethren.

It seems we live in a day where most are looking out for themselves and their own. It is rare, sometimes even in the church of the Lord, to find men who are able to overcome strife or vainglory and in lowliness of mind esteem other better than themselves. However men like Barnabas “look not on their own things, but...also on the things of others” (Phil. 2:4). We need more like Barnabas in the Lord’s church today. Let us all study our Bibles more and more as we strive to build character within our lives, and may we learn the great lessons from our faithful brother Barnabas.

Use Your words To Make A Positive Difference

Article Selected

The young lady collecting money at the first drive-thru window was looking pretty down. She was wearing a mask and the afternoon sun was intensely hot that day. She was also wearing two medical bracelets to notify potential first responders of her serious medical issues. On top of all that, the drive-thru was painfully slow that day, as the restaurant was horribly understaffed. Was the slow service this young lady’s fault? Not in the least! But, guess who everyone had been taking their frustrations out on that day? This young lady, who was daring enough to get a job,

when so many others are not working, in order to make some money to help her family.

Do you know what this young lady needed? Well, she needed what every other human being needs—a kind word of encouragement! Her countenance completely changed when one driver thanked her and took time to encourage her, while waiting for the line to move. Remember, “a good word (spoken in due season) makes [the heart] glad” (Prov. 12:25; 15:23). It only takes a few good words from you to change someone’s day!

Upcoming Events

Friday, Jan. 28—Family Fellowship night @ 6:30pm at the building.

Saturday, Feb. 5— Ladies' Day hosted by Midtown.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Sat. Jan. 29—Soul Winner's Workshop hosted by Dripping Spring church of Christ.

Sat. Jan 29—BSC hosting their Ladies Day.

Feb. 24 through 27—Arise hosted by SW church of Christ

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

All those who are ill with COVID, including Peggy Matlock's son. Angela Sneeringer, who came forward last Sunday.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Scott DeDear, Ken and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson, Sandy Malone.

Midtown will be hosting our Ladies' Day on Saturday, February 5th, 2022. Our speaker will be the lovely Lakesha Garza from the Adams Street church of Christ. Registration & Breakfast will be from 8:30am-9:15am and lunch will be provided.

LADIES—A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the hallway for food that is needed for our Ladies Day on Feb. 5th. Please sign up.

Food Helpers for the month of January - Team A.
There is a list of teams on the bulletin board.

Service Roster

Week of January 23, 2022

Sunday Morning

Announcements..... Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading..... Jesse Moser
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Mike Atkinson
Closing Prayer..... Will Burleson

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Mark FitzSimmons
Cup..... Ronnie Scherffius
Offering..... Ron White
Assist..... James Cammock
Assist..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Bryant Siegel

Sunday Evening

Announcements..... Bryant Siegel
Song Leader Isaac Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Steve Randle
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering..... .. Ron White & Lupe Escojido

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Ronnie Scherffius
Song Leader Ken Dorries
Devotional Jesse Moser

Other

Usher..... Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion

Congregational News

Birthdays

Phillip Garcia..... Jan. 24
Julia Atkinson..... Jan. 26
Trenton Jenkins Jan. 27

Anniversaries

Richard and Marva Hill..... Jan. 25
Lupe and Virginia Escojido..... Jan. 31

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

“There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.” Joshua 21:45

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of January 16, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....47
A.M. Worship.....64
P.M. Worship.....39
Wednesday Bible Class.....41
Offering week of January 16, 2022.....\$2,560

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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