

HOW TO BE A BARNABAS

Acts 4:36-37

Satilla Baptist Church

Wray, GA

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I. INTRODUCTION

a. Death of Billy Graham

- i. Some say we need a modern day Billy Graham
- ii. We do need someone to fill the gap. (Ezekiel 22)
- iii. You can be this person.
- iv. Example: Charlie Brown and Lucy on cruise ship discussing lounge chair placement
 1. *Maybe I can put it another way... Life, Charlie Brown, is like a deck chair." "Like a what?" "Have you ever been on a cruise ship? Passengers open up these canvas deck chairs so they can sit in the sun... Some people place their chairs facing the rear of the ship so they can see where they've been... Other people face their chairs forward... They want to see where they're going! On the cruise ship of life, Charlie Brown, which way is your deck chair facing?" "I've never been able to get one unfolded..." — Charles M. Schulz, The Complete Peanuts, Vol. 16: 1981-1982*
 2. *James 2:15-17 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*
- v. Some folks are like a drink of water to a drowning man, brighten up a room just by walking out, but we need some

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encouragers. We are introduced to just such a man here in these verses

- b. Joses (Joseph)-nickname Barnabas – Son of Encouragement. We will learn a lot about Barnabas in the Book of Acts.
- c. He shows us 6 ways that we can be a “Son of Encouragement”

II. **BE GENEROUS**

- a. Sold land and brought the money to the church. He gave.
- b. Everything belongs to God. We are simply managing it for him.
 - i. Example of money from someone
- c. *¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ [Instruct them]to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real. 1 Tim 6:17-19 (HCSB)*
- d. We can also give of that beside money. Our time and talents to help others.
- e. “Silver and Gold have I none, but such as I have give I unto thee”
 - i. Cook, Mechanic, Carpenter, Teacher.
- f. Galatians 6:2 “Bear one another’s’ burdens”

III. **BEFREIND THE FREINDLESS**

a. **Acts 9:23-27**

- i. Barnabas befriended Paul, who no one wanted anything to do with.

- b. Can you be a friend to a shunned person?

IV. **ENCOURAGE A BEGINNER (Acts 11:19-23)**

- a. A new thing was going on in Antioch. Greeks were being saved. Barnabas went to check it out.
- b. He did not criticize but he built them up in the Lord (verse 23)

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- c. Just because someone does not do things just like we do does not mean we should become a cold water committee and dosh the fire.

V. **BE HOLY (11:24)**

a. Good man

i. Actions, Works.

1. James, Faith without works is dead.
2. This idea of cheap grace is a lie. God calls us to live Holy pure lives.

3. **James 2:14-26**

b. Full of the Holy Spirit

i. We are commanded to be Filled with the Spirit.

ii. Ephesians 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.[c]

c. Full of Faith

- i. Do not worry about how much faith you have, focus on Who your faith is in.

VI. **DEVELOP A LEADER (Acts 11:25-26)**

- a. Barnabas recognized Saul's gifts and brought him to Antioch to teach the new believers there.
- b. He was not jealous of Saul's gifts

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- c. Barnabas was not a leader or a writer. He would never write a single book in the Bible, but he did encourage Paul who would write half the new testament and he would restore John Mark who would write the Gospel of Mark.

VII. LIFT UP THE FALLEN (Acts 15:36-41)

- a. Division over John Mark between Paul and Barnabas. They part ways. But Barnabas decision to place faith in John Mark is well founded.
- b. Paul sees it too eventually.
 - i. *Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. 2 Tim 4:11 (KJV)*
- c. *1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Gal 6:1 (KJV)*
- d. *James 5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul[f] from death and cover a multitude of sins.*
- e. A wounded man does not need a sermon he needs care.

VIII. CONCUSION

- a. Any of us here can do the things that Barnabas did. Maybe we can't preach or write like Paul, but we can:
 - i. Be Generous
 - ii. Befriend the Friendless
 - iii. Encourage a Beginner
 - iv. Be Holy
 - v. Help Someone develop their gifts
 - vi. Lift up the Fallen