

### 3 Membership Matters Church Expansion Series

Acts 4:32-37

July 29, 2018

Our Church Expansion Series has shown us that we as a Church in order to Grow we need to be intentional in taking Action Steps towards reach our community. We are also to be Investing in Others not only giving them a hand out but a hand up! And today we will learn that Membership Matters!

**Acts 4:36-37** Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Barnabas was a Solid Member of The Early Church. He is a perfect Example of a Member of the church who got involved in serving and made his Membership Matter.

I. **His Example was reflected** in his New Name (36) Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement)

**In the Bible children names** reflected their perceived identity or personality. For instance Jabez **1 Chronicles 4:9** Jabez was more honorable than his brothers; and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

When God changed a person's name and gave him a new name, it was usually to establish a new identity.

God changed Abram's name, meaning "high father," to "Abraham," meaning "father of a multitude" (Genesis 17:5). At the same time, God changed Abraham's wife's name from "Sarai," meaning "my princess," to "Sarah," meaning "mother of nations" (Genesis 17:15).

God changed **Jacob's** name, which meant "Supplanter," to "**Israel**," meaning "having power with God" (Genesis 32:28).

In the New Testament, Jesus changed **Simon's** name, meaning "God has heard," to "**Peter**," meaning "rock" when He first called him as a disciple (John 1:42).

**Saul to Paul** was **NOT** a new name. Saul is Hebrew & Paul was the Roman version of Saul.

Barnabas was a Nickname given to him by the Apostils. (36) Thus **Joseph**, who was also called by the apostles **Barnabas** (which means **son of encouragement**)

**Encouragement** = paraklesis **Meaning:** 1) a calling near, summons, to for help, exhortation, admonition, encouragement. Same word used to describe the Holy Spirit!

**William** = "Strong-willed or Resolute warrior."

**What do people call you?**

**To your face?**

**Behind your back?**

II. **His Example was reflected** in his **Generosity** (37) sold a field that belonged to him and **brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.**

Barnabas is recorded here as the first of those who sold Land and Houses to help with the day to day needs of the Early Church. His example would encourage others to do the same.

In **Acts 5:1-11** we are find a couple who sold property. Their names are **Ananias and Sapphira**...When they brought their gift they lied to the Holy Spirit and how much they received for the property.

Were **Ananias and Sapphira** saved? We believe they probably were.

**Hebrews 12:8** If you are **left without discipline**, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

III. **His Example was reflected** in his **Godliness** (**Acts 11:24**) for he was a **good man, full of the Holy Spirit** and of **faith**. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

- **Speaks of his Character** (24) for he was a **good man**
- **Speaks of his Christianity** (24) **full of the Holy Spirit** and of **faith**.
- **Speaks of his Commitment** (24) And a great many people were added to the Lord.

If you **Commit yourself** to sharing the Gospel you to will see results.

IV. **His Example was reflected** in his

**Genuineness (Acts 15:36-41)** And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." <sup>37</sup> Now Barnabas wanted to take with them **John called Mark**. <sup>38</sup> But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup> And there arose a **sharp disagreement**, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**John called Mark** is the Author of The Book of Mark. John = Hebrew Mark = Roman

**On Paul's First Missionary Journey** (Acts 13:4–14:26) Barnabas and Paul first visited Barnabas's home region of Cyprus before sailing to the southern region of Asia Minor. When they reached Perga in Pamphylia, **John Mark left the group** and returned to Jerusalem. **Acts 13:13** Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,

The great scholar **Dr. JT Robertson** said "Mark flickered in the crisis, but the light did not go out."

Thanks to Barnabas **Genuinely believing** in young John Mark, He eventually matured in his faith and ultimately won back respect from Paul.

**2 Timothy 4:11** Luke alone is with me. **Get Mark and bring him** with you, for he is **very useful** to me for ministry.

### **Membership Matters!**

Active Members

Watchcare Members

Inactive Members

Regular Attenders