



Part 15

Barnabas: Son of Encouragement

Acts 11:19 – 26

Ephesians 2:11 – 22 – ¹¹ Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you were foreigners to the covenant promises God had made with them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

¹⁷ He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. (NLT)

Galatians 3:26 – 29 – ²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are *all* children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (NLT)

Acts 11:19 – 26 – Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word *only among Jews*.

²⁰ Some of them, however, *men from Cyprus and Cyrene*, went to Antioch and *began to speak to Greeks* also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

WHAT DOES A "SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT" LOOK LIKE?

1. Encouragers recognize the grace of God working in people's lives.

2. Encouragers see the potential in people and draw that potential out.

³⁹ They had such a *sharp disagreement* that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left . . . (Acts 15:39 – 40 NIV)

ENCOURAGED – Acts 11:23 is *parakaleo*

- *kalew* means to call, to summon, to call out, to point people toward a goal or a truth . . . it's a strong word.
- *para* means to come along side . . . be next to you . . . almost like being in another person's shoes.

3. Encouragers tell us the truth about ourselves but temper it with love.

1 Timothy 5:1 – Do not *address* an older man *harshly* but appeal to him as a father.

4. Encouragers invite us to join them in what God is doing in their lives.

Christian *doctrine* can be taught . . . but Christian *living* must be caught.