

## Notes:



## How To Make A Difference In Jesus' Church Barnabas and the Church in Antioch Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3

### Diversity of the Antioch Church

*<sup>1</sup> Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.*  
Acts 13:1

Barnabas, was a Cypriot Jew, a bicultural Jew.  
Simeon called Niger. Niger means black, was a black African.  
Lucius of Cyrene. Cyrene was from North Africa not black; more like what we would call Arabic.

Manaen we don't know much about except he was brought up with Herod, which means he came from money.  
Saul/Paul, we know was not only Jewish but an academic.

### Amidst all these great milestones is a man named Barnabas.

*Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"),<sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.*  
Acts 4:36

*But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.* Acts 9:27

*News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.<sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.*  
Acts 11:22,23

Verse 23 is not one of the main themes of this text  
but it's a main theme in the Bible

### Community Group Questions:

1. What about Barnabas story impacts you the most? His generosity? His traveling 400 miles to serve? His work in Antioch? His leaving it all to go find Paul in Tarsus?

2. Which of those attributes best describes you?

3. Jesus is our first Advocate (Paraclete) and the Holy Spirit is our second Advocate (Paraclete). Barnabas functions as an advocate (Paraclete) by the power of the Holy Spirit. What needs to change for you to function fully as an advocate for Christ as well?

## What makes Barnabas so Important?

News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Acts 11:22,23

The Greek word here for "encouraged" is the word **parakaleo**.

**Kaleo** is a strong word that means to point others to truth.

**Para** is about being sympathetic to someone.

**Parakaleo** means you're direct but kind in your directing

## How can we be like Barnabas?

"He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. He encouraged them, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord." Acts 11:24

"Exhort one another daily, lest you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:13

Deceitfulness is denial about some things wrong with you.

Exhort translates from the Greek word- "**Parakaleo**"

It actually says you should have some people, daily, who are willing to critique you, but so loving that they give it kindly.

Most of us would struggle to say that happens with any regularity, let alone daily. Yet the Bible says you'll perish without it.

## So how can we get it?

He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. Acts 11:24

## John Chapter 14

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. (There's the challenge)

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. He says, "I'm going to send you the Holy Spirit." John 14:15-17

**"another advocate"** is the word **Paraclete**.

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the other advocate ...

If this is the second advocate, who's the first advocate?

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 1 John 2:1

**Here's what this means:** Jesus is your first Advocate.

Believers in me by faith have sinned, but I have paid their debt.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

If Holy Spirit is the second Advocate. **What does that mean?**

Just as the first Advocate speaks for you to God, the second Advocate speaks to you on Jesus' behalf.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

**The Holy Spirit encourages you saying-**"Look at what Jesus has done for you."

**How do you encourage others?** "Look at what Jesus has done for you."