

# BARNABAS

## ACTS 4

Text:

Introduction:

We see the spirit of this church.

- Bold (vs. 29)
- Praying (vs. 30)
- Unified (vs. 32)
- Generous (vs. 34)
- Compassionate (vs. 35)

Then we come to verse 36 and find the name of an individual, that being Barnabas.

This man is an example for us. A man who no doubt loved the Lord, but a man at the close of his sadly is turned by those of dissension.

Notice:

## **1. A SINCERE MAN (A LEVITE) (ACTS 4:34-37)**

- A. In the Old Testament Levites was not supposed to own land.
- B. Through his example we see the disastrous failure of the Jewish faith.
- C. He also owned land in a foreign country not in the promise land.
- D. He evidently decided that he would become that which God had called him to do, that of being a Levite.

## **2. A SYMPATHETIC MAN (ACTS 9:26-27)**

- A. Saul had come back to Jerusalem.
  - 1. His reputation
    - Watched the stoning of Stephen (7:54-60)
    - Chief Persecutor (8:1)
    - Made havoc of the church (8:3)
    - Was a real threat (9:12)

2. His conversion (9:3-19)

3. His seeking (9:26)

4. His rejection (9:26)

B. "But" Barnabas took him

- James the just - brother of the Lord- Chief elder of the Jerusalem church - wanted nothing to do with Saul.
- Peter that great preacher on the day of Pentecost - wanted nothing to do with Saul.
- John the beloved - the apostle of love - wanted nothing to do with Saul.
- Andrew who always introduced people to Christ and had a rare gift for seeking out those who needed to know the Saviour - wanted to do nothing to do with Saul.
- Thomas unless he could have positive, irrefutable, solid, material proof of Saul's salvation, Thomas - wanted nothing to do with him.
- "But" Barnabas opened his door to Saul.

### **3. A SPIRITUAL MAN (ACTS 11:20-26)**

Acts 11:23

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.

A. Glad about spiritual things (vs 23)

B. Good man (vs 24)

### **4. A SENSIBLE MAN (ACTS 11:25-26)**

The work was growing so fast that Barnabas needed help. What should he do? To whom should he go?

- No doubt his mind ran down the list of the apostles.
- What about Peter - no he was too impulsive.
- What about James - no he was too rigid.
- What about Thomas - no he was too skeptical.
- What about John - no he was too emotional.
- What about Phillip - no he is no longer in Jerusalem.

- What a pity Stephen is dead - he would have been the one.

He went and found Paul, a proven man.

## **5. A SURRENDERED MAN (ACTS 13:1-13)**

A. Separate me Barnabas - he was called

He could have said:

- I'm needed here
- I want to stay here
- I like it here
- I feel more suited to this work than to pioneering work on the foreign field.
- I have done my share.
- Let another younger man go.
- I'll stay here and get this church involved.

But he went where God sent him.

## **6. A SOUND MAN (ACTS 15:1-2)**

A. False teaching was being spread in Jerusalem by men from Judaea.

1. False teaching and corruption is always trying to creep in.

Jude 1:3-4

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

B. But he knew the truth and was sound in doctrine.

## **7. A SEPARATED MAN (ACTS 15:36-40)**

The time came when Paul & Barnabas separated. And like most separations like this, many take sides.

Who was right? We'll no doubt both had good intentions, but as we will see in our last observation of Barnabas it leads us to believe Paul was correct.

## 8. A SWAYED MAN (GAL. 2:1-13)

Someone once said, "It's not how one starts, but how one finishes, that's most important."

A. A sad ending.

After all that God allowed Barnabas to do in the ministry:

- The introduction of Paul to the Apostles
- The starting of churches
- The correcting of false teaching
- The training of his nephew; Mark
  1. He is swayed the wrong direction.
  2. This is the last we hear of Barnabas.

Lessons to be learned

1. God desires our sincerity.
2. Those who make a difference are those with compassion.

3. Know who to turn to when we need help.

- The Lord
- Those who have been proven

4. Study to show yourselves approved.

2 Tim. 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Titus 1:9

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 2:1

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

5. Be careful the company you keep.

6. Remember even great Christians can be swayed.