

LEARNING TO BE A BARNABAS

Central Truth: Ministry is using your life to make a spiritual impact in other's lives. Barnabas was an encourager who was willing to do that.

Review:

The mission of FSM is to
Win non-Christian students to Christ (evangelism)
Build them up in their faith (fellowship)
Equip them (discipleship)
To serve (ministry)
all as an expression of their love for Christ (worship).

Four weeks ago we talked about God's purpose for your life and we said that it was ultimately to glorify God. God wants to use the five parts of this mission to help you to accomplish that.

Two weeks ago we looked at how to share your faith (evangelism).
Last week we talked about Christian fellowship.
Tonight we are going to talk about ministry.

Introduction:

Tell us about a time when you were in a new place and meeting new people for the very first time.

How did you feel?

Did anyone do anything that made you feel more welcome? What?

Do you know of anyone that comes to mind who is a real encourager? Why do you say that?

Can you think of a New Testament character who was known as an encourager?
Barnabas - Son of Encouragement

I. Barnabas has a giving attitude. Acts 4:34-36

A. The first time we meet Barnabas what is he doing?

He is sharing what he has to meet the needs of others.

B. Ministry is caring enough about others that you reach out to meet those needs within your ability for their good.

What are some needs that people have that you could meet?

1. Express care and concern by listening
2. Be a friend by inviting them to do something with you.

II. Barnabas risks reaching out to new people and welcoming them. Acts 9:26-31

A. The next time we see Barnabas is Saul has been persecuting Christians and having them imprisoned. On the road to Damascus, Saul meets Jesus and becomes a follower of Christ. While in Damacus, Paul powerfully preaches of Christ and the Jews are baffled (vs. 22). Eventually they decide to kill him, but Saul sneaks out and makes it to Jerusalem. When he gets to Jerusalem, the disciples are afraid of him thinking he's trying to be a double agent, just to imprison him.

But not Barnabas. He is willing to take a risk and welcome him.

B. What did Barnabas do in welcoming Paul into the church? He vouched for Him.

C. How can you and I welcome new people?

What is your perspective when you meet someone new?

(I wonder how I can encourage them?)

III. Barnabas ministers to people to help them grow spiritually. Acts 11:22-26

A. The next place we see Barnabas is dealing with the issue of the Gentiles. The Jews didn't like the Gentiles, but Peter has been spending time with them and preached the gospel to them and they were getting saved.

At first, this really upset the Jews (Acts 11:2-3) until they saw this as God's work (11:18). There was news of Gentiles getting saved in Antioch (11:20-21) and so they sent Barnabas to check it out.

B. How did Barnabas respond to the Greeks? V. 26 (He helped them grow in their faith).

What are things that new believers (baby christians) need to learn to grow in their faith?

1. food-how to eat
2. communication - how to talk (prayer)
3. walk- how to deal with sin
4. How to get along with others
 - the necessity of the church
 - not to be selfish, but loving

C. How many of you think that you could help a baby Christian grow in these

areas?

D. God wants to use you to help others grow in their faith. You don't need to have it all figured out or have all the answers. You just need to be willing to trust God and come along side others and share what you do know.

IV. Barnabas is willing to give people a second chance. (2 Tim. 4:11) Acts 15:36-39

A. Barnabas and Paul were preparing to leave Antioch and return to the towns that they had preached in. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark while Paul wanted to take Titus. Paul wasn't sure that John Mark wouldn't bail on them again like he did the last time (Acts 13:13). Barnabas was willing to give him a second chance.

B. Later Paul commends Mark as one who is helpful to him in ministry (2 Tim. 4:11)

Application

Is your attitude toward people like Barnabas? He saw people and their needs as opportunities to glorify God by serving them.

Be a Barnabas:

1. Have a giving attitude
2. Risk welcoming new people
3. Come along side of people and help them grow
4. Be willing to give people a second chance

Hand out 3x5 cards and have students answer

Who will you be a Barnabas to this week?

What will you do this week to be an encouragement?

Who can you come along side of and help them grow in their walk with Christ?