

Barnabas' Edifying Expositions

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Acts 11:19-26
- B. One of the great tragedies of our time is that there are so few kind people.
 - 1. That this is how every child of God ought to be - Eph. 4:32, 4:2
- C. What mental disconnect occurs when a Christian fails to apply this when teaching the lost?
 - 1. Why do so many become confrontational, appearing to believe that attacking the lost is some sort of virtue? - 2Tim. 2:24-26
- D. Rather than considering the sermon and its content (which does not appear in the text), we will consider the manner in which it was delivered.
 - 1. Barnabas serves as the best illustration of this.
- E. Barnabas was a name given to him later in life. His given name is Joses or Joseph. Barnabas means "Son of Consolation" and comes from the same root word as the word translated as "Comforter" used by Jesus for the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. He earned the title of "Encourager" from the brethren for reasons that seem evident from the text
 - 2. He was an exceptional judge of character; he was able to see the potential for good in others who were often dismissed by others
 - 3. He was able to spend time with these people and help them to realize their potential for good

I. BARNABAS BROUGHT OUT THE GOOD IN FELLOW CHRISTIANS

- A. The needy saints in Jerusalem - Acts 4:32-37
 - 1. There was very little that was more precious to a Jewish man than the inheritance left for him by his father (242 verses)
 - a. Esau's profane sale of his birthright - Heb. 12:16-17
 - b. Barnabas sold his to help hungry Christians
 - 2. He trusted the apostles to use it wisely
 - 3. He trusted the recipients to have genuine needs
 - 4. Being trusted is encouraging and empowering
 - 5. You will not pay a higher compliment to a young person than to give them a responsibility and refuse to micromanage them
- B. Saul of Tarsus - Acts 9:26-28
 - 1. He saw the potential good that would come of Saul being part of the church at Jerusalem at a time when even the apostles did not
 - 2. He gave the apostles the benefit of the doubt that they would respond reasonably to his defense of Saul
 - 3. When he was in a work where he needed help, he went to get Saul
 - a. Acts 11:25-26
- C. John Mark - Acts 15:36-39
 - 1. Barnabas saw the good in John Mark and stood up for him even against someone he once defended and with whom he worked several years
 - 2. He was right - 2Tim. 4:11.

3. Would John Mark have become useful in the ministry if Barnabas had dismissed him as easily as Paul did?

II. BARNABAS BROUGHT OUT THE GOOD IN CHURCHES

- A. Barnabas had no difficulty with follow up work - Acts 11:19-21; 2Cor. 10:14-18
- B. Barnabas had no difficulty with following instructions - Acts 11:22
- C. Barnabas was a self starter who drew strength from witnessing others prosper in the Lord - Acts 11:23
- D. Barnabas preached and taught the church the same way he taught and encouraged individuals - Acts 11:23-24
- E. Barnabas stayed with the disciples to establish them; he didn't encourage them and leave them - Acts 11:25-26
 1. He was the located preacher at Antioch when disciples first began to be called Christians

III. LESSON

- A. Christians fall away and churches dwindle without edifying encouragement.
 1. Not every verse is about liberals, denominations, homosexuals, false doctrines, and sin
 2. If one thinks otherwise, his faith is warped and his soul is at risk
 3. And if he preaches this way, he preaches less than the whole counsel of God and puts other's souls at risk
- B. May I never close my mind to the possibility that I might be stuck in a "tear down error" mode and need to get into a "build up the church" frame of mind for spiritual equilibrium. May we all avoid focusing so intently on counting out our anise and cumin seeds for the right tithe that we omit the weightier matters (Matt. 23:23).