

THE BARNABAS EFFECT II

²³ 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. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. .

Acts 11:23-24

I. Barnabas had a giving heart. (Acts 4:32-37)

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

II. Barnabas affirmed the most unusual and important Christian disciple of all time. (Acts 9:26-27)

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

III. The church at Antioch / Barnabas was the only man who was universally trusted to evaluate a new and challenging move of God. (Acts 11:19-23)

¹⁹ 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 what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

IV. Barnabas was leader-maker.

- A. Leader-makers take risks.
- B. Leader-makers are patient with the failures of others.
- C. Leader-makers are humble and stand in the background while others are put in the foreground.
- D. Leader-makers discern between embers and ashes.
- E. Leader-makers disciple and send out better men than themselves.
- F. Barnabas was a leader of leaders of leaders! As the spiritual father of the apostle Paul and John Mark, he indirectly influenced 14 of the 27 books of the canon of the New Testament.

V. The church at Antioch

- A. Shocked all convention
- B. It was the first Jew/Gentile church community.
- C. It was a mixed multicultural work.
- D. The scandalous nature of the work required the convening of an important church counsel to legitimize.