

SERMON STARTERS

Message: **“BARNEY WAS A GOOD FRIEND”**

Text: **Acts 4:36**

“.....Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed "Barnabas, the encourager.”

All of us need a friend like Barnabas. He was such a friendly fellow that he earned the nickname “encourager.” All of needs a friend like Barnabas to pick us up when we are down, to help lift our load when it gets too heavy to bear alone, to give a pat on the back when we’ve been kicked in the pants!

Notice several marks of good friends that we see in the life of Barnabas:

I. THEY SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS.

“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” (Acts 4:36-37)

II. THEY STAND UP FOR OTHERS.

”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. 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.” (Acts 9:26-27)

III. THEY SPIRITUALLY INFLUENCE OTHERS.

“News of this [revival] reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.” (Acts 11:22-24)

IV. THEY SEEK THE SUCCESS OF OTHERS.

“Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” (Acts 11:25-26)

Human friends are good, but the greatest Friend that we can have is Jesus. Proverbs 18:24 says, “There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” and that Friend is the Lord Jesus Christ. Receive Him! Rely upon Him! Reflect Him in your life by befriending the friendless!

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