

TODAY'S LESSON

BARNABAS (part 4)

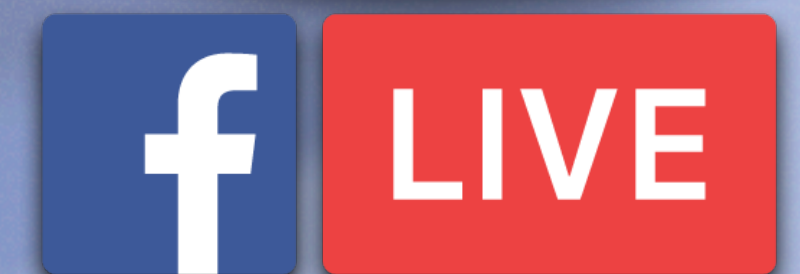
(Acts 15:36-41)

By James Hamilton



Sunday Morning Live Stream

9:00 AM CT June 23, 2024



**BARNABAS:
SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

Part 4

ACTS 15

What We Learn from Barnabas in Acts 4-14

He encouraged others by actions and words

He was a sacrificial giver

He saw a need, so he did something about it

He understood the importance of fellowship

He saw the good in other people

He did not hold the past against them
(especially Paul)

He brought people together

He kept people together in challenging
circumstances

What We Learn from Barnabas in Acts 4-14

- He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith
- He was trustworthy to do important work
- He completed his tasks
- He faithfully taught God's word
- He was content with Paul gaining more fame than he received (Matt. 20:24-28)
- He was humble and told others to glorify God
- He glorified God and His work through him

What To Learn from Barnabas in Acts 15

- Paul and Barnabas **opposed** those from Jerusalem who **taught** a different gospel
v.1-2 *no small dissension* = **BIG** dissension
- Antioch **sent** Paul & Barnabas to Jerusalem
- **Not to find out what is the truth**
- Paul & Barnabas **already had** the truth
- **Not because Jerusalem was “the mother church”**
- **But because Jerusalem was the source of the problem!**

What To Learn from Barnabas in Acts 15

- Paul and Barnabas encouraged saints throughout Lebanon and Samaria on way to Jerusalem with news of Gentile conversions v.3
- Paul & Barnabas did the same in Jerusalem v.4
- But Pharisees said Gentiles must become Jews and keep the law of Moses v.5
- The apostles, elders, church met v.6,12

What To Learn from Barnabas in Acts 15

- Much dispute v.7 (ZETESIS, a search)
- *Avoid foolish disputes Titus 3:9 because they generate strife 2 Timothy 2:23*
- But some disputes must be confronted
- Peter reminded them of Cornelius' conversion and its implications v.7-11

Acts 15:7-11

7 “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago **God chose** among us, that **by my mouth the Gentiles** should **hear the word of the gospel** and **believe**. 8 So **God, who knows the heart,** **acknowledged them** by **giving them the Holy Spirit,** **just as He did** to **us**, 9 and **made no distinction** **between us** and **them,** **purifying their hearts** by **faith**. 10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 But we believe that through **the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.**”

What To Learn from Barnabas in Acts 15

- Much dispute v.7 (ZETESIS, a search)
- *Avoid foolish disputes Titus 3:9 because they generate strife 2 Timothy 2:23*
- But some disputes must be confronted
- Peter reminded them of Cornelius' conversion and its implications v.7-11
- *God made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by the faith (1 Pet. 1:22)...we shall be saved exactly the same way as they are saved v.9...11*

What To Learn from Barnabas in Acts 15

- Barnabas & Paul kept the multitude silent by declaring the many miracles God did through them among the Gentiles v.12
- God endorsed their teaching to Gentiles by *signs and wonders* John 3:2
- Barnabas & Paul always had the truth
- Barnabas & Paul expressed no opinions
- James spoke up after Barnabas and Saul v.13-21

What To Learn from Barnabas in Acts 15

- Scripture indicates James' prominence
v.22-29; 12:16; 9:26-28 with Galatians 1:19;
2:9 *James, Cephas, John*
- He backed up Peter with Scripture v.14-18
- James suggested a resolution v.19-21
- All the apostles, elders, the whole church
agreed to James' suggestion v.22-29
- Meeting confirmed the truth of Barnabas &
Paul

What To Learn from Barnabas in Acts 15

- We did not send those who try to impose Judaism on Gentiles v.24
- The letter endorses Barnabas and Paul as faithful teachers of the truth v.25-26
- We are sending witnesses Silas and Judas from Jerusalem to verify this letter v.27
- You need to avoid: things offered to idols, blood, things strangled, fornication v.29
- *They* refers to Barnabas and Paul v.30-33
rejoicing was the result of encouragement

Paul and Barnabas Break Up Acts 15

- Paul's idea to visit the brethren again v.36
- Barnabas determined to take quitter Mark
- Paul didn't think that was a good idea v.38
- Barnabas:

Paul and Barnabas **Break Up Acts 15**

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Paul and Barnabas Break Up Acts 15

- Paul's idea to visit the brethren again v.36
- Barnabas wanted to take Mark v.37
- Paul didn't think that was a good idea v.38
- Barnabas: I ain't goin' without Mark!
- Paul: Ain't no way I'm goin' with Mark!
- Paul's idea: Paul & Barnabas go
- Barnabas' idea: Barnabas, Mark, & Paul go

Paul and Barnabas Break Up Acts 15

- **Providence:** Barnabas & Mark go to Cyprus
Paul & Silas go to Cilicia, Lycaonia, *etc.*
v.39-41 brethren commended Paul & Silas
- Barnabas did not hold the past against Paul or Mark.
- We should not hold a someone's past against them
- God also forgives and helps us start over
- Trusting others is a different application, especially in leadership

Barnabas Caught Up in Hypocrisy!

Galatians 2:11-13

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; **12** for **before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles;** but when they came, he **withdrew** and **separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.** **13** And the **rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.**

Barnabas Caught Up in Hypocrisy!

Galatians 2:11-14

- Paul publicly rebuked Peter v.11
- Peter taught the truth v.6-9
- Peter practiced the truth v.12a
- Then pressure by men from James v.12b
- He withdrew himself from faithful Gentile brothers (what is to be done to those delivered to Satan—1 Cor. 5:4,9) so did all the Jews...*even Barnabas!*
- Too much of a good thing is a bad thing

Paul's Positive References to Barnabas

- **1 Cor. 9:6** known by the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 9:3-6

3 My defense to those who examine me is this: **4** Do **we have** no right to eat and drink? **5** Do **we have** no right to take along a believing wife, as do **also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?** **6** Or is it **only Barnabas and I who have** no right to refrain from working? **7** Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

Paul's Positive References to Barnabas

- **1 Cor. 9:6** known by the Corinthians
- Paul includes Barnabas with himself v.6
- Barnabas is example with Paul to be supported for the Lord's work contrasted with other apostles v.3-5
- **Colossians 4:10** Barnabas vindicated by Mark; **2 Timothy 4:11**
- God forgives our past and helps us start over **1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1:13-15; 12:13; 15:1-4;**

Acts 15:36–41 (NKJV)

³⁶ Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are doing.” ³⁷ Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.