

Home Group Questions

the week of 11/24/2019

Various Scriptures

ENCOURAGERS NEEDED THE EXAMPLE OF BARNABAS

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel focused on Barnabas, a person who had an amazing impact in the early church and was given the name "Son of Encouragement" (Barnabas). This should highlight the need for us to be encouragers in the lives of others.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Philippians 2:1-4. In looking at the need to be encouragers, it's probably a good place to start by looking at the encouragement we can find in our relationship with Christ. What do you think the connection is between the encouragement we have in Christ, and the call for unity and selflessness in the church? Share times in your life when you were impacted by someone's love or selflessness that was motivated by their love for Christ.

2. Read Acts 4:34-37. Barnabas uses his resources to encourage others. This reminds us that encouragement is most powerful when it is connected with a personal sacrifice on our part of our time, our talents, or even our finances. Think of those that we can encourage by a sacrifice of our resources (time, talent, treasures). (Acts 4:37) What are the resources that you find yourself most willing to sacrifice? Which ones are most difficult to sacrifice as you see the needs of others? Obviously the Lord doesn't want anyone "overextended;" what are ways to avoid that happening in the use of your resources in ministry?

3. Read Acts 9:26-27 The disciples were very hesitant to reach out to Paul due to his reputation for being a persecutor of the church. Barnabas, however, reaches out to Paul and welcomes him into fellowship. How does that impact the way you relate to people who have failed or disappointed you? Who do you know that may not feel accepted or connected in the church, but you could reach out to them again, or in a fresh new way?

4. Read Acts 11:19-24. Encouraging finds its greatest application in spiritual edification. Barnabas is seen in this passage as an encourager to new believers. How does this relate to our friendships? Our time spent with our spouse and children, and the content of our communication with each person. What are ways you can humbly and lovingly increase the spiritual edification with your friendships?

5. Read Acts 11:25-26. Barnabas invites Paul to see what God is doing at Antioch. He has no problem sharing the leadership with Paul. The sermon challenged us to encourage others by connecting them with potential growth experiences. What are some growth experiences in your life? Are there people around you who are not participating in those events that you could reach out to? What are the potential pros and cons of doing this?

6. Read Acts 13:13;15:37-39 Encouraging longs to give "growers" another chance.) Barnabas was willing to give Mark another opportunity...a second chance. What are the risks and challenges with decisions to do that? Can you think of someone you can encourage by giving them "another chance:"?

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that the Lord would make you a "power encourager"!!