**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Five Ways You Can Encourage Others |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 4:36-37 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2275 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. If we could model and mold a church member, that person would be like Barnabas.
      1. Barnabas was not his real name.
         1. His name was Joses; Barnabas was his nickname.
      2. “Barnabas” means “encouragement.”
   2. Barnabas had the gift of encouragement.
      1. The Bible calls him “the son of consolation.”
         1. Acts 4:36
            1. When it says “*by the apostles he was surnamed Barnabas*,” it means that his parents did not give him this name.

The apostles gave him the nickname “Barnabas.”

* + - 1. The word “consolation” means “encouragement.”
  1. Barnabas was a Levite and of the country of Cyprus.
  2. Acts 4:37
  3. Paracletos, the Greek word for “encouragement” or “consolation” is the word from which we get our word for the Holy Spirit.
     1. The Holy Spirit is called “the Comforter” or “the Paraclete.”
  4. Barnabas was doing for other people what the Holy Spirit does for the child of God.
     1. The Holy Spirit comes inside us and alongside us to encourage us, to give us comfort, to give us hope, and to get us on our way.
  5. There is not a person in this world who does not need encouragement.
  6. Discouragement opens the door for all other kinds of sins and failures.
     1. “Discouragement is the dark room where the negatives of failure are developed.”
  7. The Bible calls God “the God of all encouragement.”
     1. 2 Corinthians 1:3
        1. In this verse, the word “comfort” is the same word that is used for “consolation,” and it means “encouragement.”
     2. God is the God of all encouragement.
        1. This means that God has cornered the market on encouragement.
        2. He is the God of all of it.
  8. If God is the God of all encouragement, then the devil is the sinister minister of discouragement.
     1. Discouragement comes from the devil.
     2. Discouragement is a major cause of failure.
  9. We need to encourage one another.
  10. 1 Thessalonians 5:14
      1. The word “feebleminded” in this passage actually means “someone with a small soul.”
         1. It means “someone who is discouraged.”
      2. We are to encourage the discouraged.
         1. This is a command from Almighty God.
  11. There are so many people who need to be encouraged, even within our own families.
  12. In today’s message, we will look at five ways that we can be an encourager.
      1. If we do these five things, then we can be a Barnabas.

1. I will encourage others by practicing stewardship
   1. Acts 4:36-37
      1. In this passage, “consolation” means “encouragement.”
   2. Barnabas was a man who had much to give.
      1. There was persecution and poverty in Jerusalem.
         1. There was a need.
      2. Barnabas saw the need, and he moved in to meet that need.
   3. Barnabas knew that there is a difference between ownership and stewardship.
      1. Many of us major on ownership, but what we are really doing is just managing the affairs of God.
         1. We do not really own anything.
         2. What do we have that God has not first given to us?
      2. God has every right to ask for it if He placed it in our hands.
         1. What do we have that we have not received?
      3. Barnabas was a man to whom God had given much, and he saw a need and moved in to help meet that need.
   4. Stanley Tam: “It is what we sow that multiplies, not what we keep in the barn.”
   5. Some may say that they are not rich and that this does not apply to them, but it does apply to them.
      1. There is more than money to give.
         1. We can give: love, help, time or wisdom.
   6. Acts 3:6
      1. There were other apostles who were not rich like Barnabas.
      2. Peter and John saw a man lying at the gate who needed help.
         1. They said that they did not have silver or gold to give; but such as they had, they gave to him.
   7. God is not going to ask us to give what we do not have.
      1. But are you willing to give what you do have?
      2. Love, time, help, prayer, or ministry.
   8. An encourager is a person who understands that he or she is a steward of that which God has placed in their hands, whatever it may be.
   9. The Bible says that we are to bear one another’s burdens.
      1. Galatians 6:2
   10. We can be an encourager by practicing stewardship.
       1. If we do, then we will be acting like Barnabas.
2. I will encourage others by extending friendship
   1. Acts 9:22-27
      1. Saul, who would become the mighty evangelist Paul, had been an enemy of the church, and now he was a friend.
         1. He had been saved, and he was preaching Jesus.
         2. He had been the mighty Pharisee who, with much zeal, had tried to destroy the church of Christ.
         3. Now, he humbled himself by sitting in a basket to be let down over a wall to escape people who wanted to kill him.
      2. Saul was between people who wanted to kill him and his own brothers and sisters in Christ who were afraid of him.
      3. Barnabas encouraged Saul by extending love and friendship to him.
         1. Saul needed someone to love him.
            1. He had lost all of his old friends, and his new friends were suspicious of him.
         2. Barnabas found a new believer and made a friend out of him.
            1. “A true friend is someone who comes in when everyone else goes out.”
   2. What is wrong with many churches is that they do not learn how to befriend new believers.
      1. They may think that they are having fellowship, but many of our churches are sacred societies for snubbing sinners.
      2. We need to practice friendship.
         1. We need to take new believers and encourage them.
   3. Psychologists have said that most people today suffer from chronic loneliness.
   4. Romans 15:5-7
      1. Paul knew what it was to be received and to be encouraged.
   5. We have more than money to give; we can give friendship.
   6. Ask God to send a newborn Christian for you to encourage.
      1. It is virtually impossible to spoil a newborn Christian.
         1. They need to be loved and included.
      2. If you want to be a Barnabas, then practice friendship.
3. i will encourage others by building partnerships
   1. In the early church, a revival had broken out in Antioch.
      1. God was doing incredible things in Antioch.
      2. Acts 11:20-24
      3. The headquarters of the Christian church at that particular time was in Jerusalem.
         1. The Word of God was going out from Jerusalem.
      4. They sent Barnabas to investigate what was happening in Antioch.
         1. Who were these people in Antioch?
         2. What did they believe?
         3. Was this a breakaway movement?
      5. Barnabas went to Antioch, and he said that he saw the grace of God there.
         1. When you are in a service where God is present, you will see the grace of God.
            1. You can tell when God is on a congregation.
      6. Barnabas went back and reported that the people in Antioch were brothers and sisters in Christ and that the church needed to support them.
   2. Barnabas was not a divider; he was a bridge builder.
      1. He got people together.
      2. He encouraged others by building partnerships.
   3. An idea is a very fragile thing and at the same time a very powerful thing.
      1. There are people who can be so negative that they cannot believe in anything big.
         1. They cannot understand a vision from God or even give God a chance to give a vision.
   4. There are three kinds of people in the world:
      1. Those who are risk takers.
      2. Those who are caretakers.
      3. Those who undertakers.
   5. Be grateful for people who encourage.
4. i will encourage others by developing leadership
   1. Acts 11:25-26
   2. Barnabas saw that the people at Antioch needed someone with an organizational mind, with spiritual insight, and someone who was a leader.
      1. Barnabas believed that Saul was the one who could lead them.
      2. Barnabas was not a leader; he was an encourager.
         1. He had enough sense to know that he needed someone else.
      3. Barnabas knew that Saul had spiritual gifts that needed to be developed, discovered, and put to work.
         1. He sent for Saul and developed a leader.
            1. Paul never forgot that.

Romans 12:10

* 1. Barnabas was content to let Saul take the leadership.
     1. Barnabas stood on the sideline as he helped find a godly leader.
     2. It takes grace to play second fiddle and to play it well.
        1. That is what Barnabas did.
     3. Barnabas wasn’t trying to build it around himself.
        1. He was developing leadership.
  2. As a church, we need to raise up leaders.
     1. We need to discover leadership and teach people to lead.
     2. We need to develop them, equip them, and send them out.
  3. Not everyone is a leader.
     1. Barnabas was not a leader; he was as encourager.
  4. Barnabas never wrote a book in the Bible.
     1. But there were two people whom he encouraged who wrote books in the Bible.
     2. The apostle Paul wrote thirteen of the New Testament books.
     3. He also encouraged a man named Mark who wrote the Gospel of Mark.
  5. Barnabas was the man that God used to develop leadership.

1. i will encourage others by rebuilding relationships
   1. Acts 15:36-40
      1. Barnabas and Paul had a contention.
      2. There was a young man whose name was Mark (also called John Mark), and he went with Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey.
         1. Along the journey, Mark left to go back home.
            1. This upset Paul.
      3. Later on, Paul and Barnabas wanted to go back and retrace their steps.
         1. Barnabas wanted to take Mark, but Paul did not want to take him.
         2. So, Barnabas took Mark and went his way while Paul chose Silas and went another way.
            1. Barnabas knew that Mark had failed, but he also knew that failure is not final.

And he wanted to mend a broken relationship.

* + - * 1. He took John Mark and continued to nurture him.
  1. Time passed, and Paul was in a filthy, Roman prison.
     1. 2 Timothy 4:11
        1. Paul asked for Mark to come.
        2. The man that Paul would not have anything to do with earlier is now the man whom Paul said was “*profitable to him for the ministry*.”
           1. This happened because there was a man named Barnabas who refused to let go of a good man named Mark just because he had failed.
  2. There are many people today who have failed, and they need us to restore that relationship.
     1. They do not need us going around reporting about them or giving them lectures.
     2. We need some people like Barnabas.
  3. Galatians 6:1
     1. In this verse, the word “restore” in the Greek is the word for “setting a bone.”
        1. It is tender, loving care.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. You can encourage others by practicing stewardship and by building friendships.
   2. Ask God to make you a Barnabas.
   3. How did Barnabas get to be Barnabas?
      1. The Bible says very clearly and plainly that Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and faith.
         1. He was a good man because he was full of the Holy Ghost.
         2. He was full of the Holy Ghost because he was a man full of faith.
            1. Are you full of faith today?
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16