

## Study Guide - "Characters - 1" from 7-8-2018

**Key Scriptures:** "And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, 'Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.' But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." (Matthew 26:6-13)

- Acts 15:36-39 "...Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take him with them.... And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus."
- 2 Timothy 4:9-11 "...Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry."
- Acts 9:26-27 "And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles."
- Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

### Start Talking:

Pastor Bobby said, "In Scripture there are no accidents. They are all there by God's providence." Share a time when you may have seen God's providence working in your life or someone's you know.

The first character in this message is Malchus, the man who got his ear cut off by Peter. Why do you think people sometimes hurt others in the name of Jesus? Have you ever seen this happen? Share and discuss.

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Pastor Bobby said, "Many who are defending Jesus are offending the very ones He loves." If you could take back a time when your "defense" of Jesus was offensive to someone He may love, what would you do differently?

### **Start Thinking:**

Pastor Bobby said, "Don't take out on Jesus what others do." How do you handle ministering to a person who refuses to have anything with God because of the behavior of those who "call themselves Christians"? Share.

In Matthew 26: 11, Jesus says, "For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always." How much time, effort and expense do you think the average Christian spends on the act of worshipping God with the most valuable things that they have? Discuss.

### **Start Sharing:**

Pastor Bobby defined "encourage" as "to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope." Would people who meet you describe you more as an encourager or a discourager? Why do some people find it easier to be an encourager? Share.

Barnabas was willing to leave Paul to take John Mark with him. Have you ever felt so strongly about defending someone, even if it made your life more difficult? Share how you would handle this situation? Have you ever had to?

**Start Praying:** "Lord, help me to look outward towards others that I might see someone who needs really encouragement. I'm ready to be Your follower by following You in giving hope to someone who needs it. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

### **Start Doing:**

Re-read 2Timothy 4:10-11. Have you ever had negative feelings about someone, only later to realize that you judged them wrongly? Can you do something now to right that wrong? Take action to do it!

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Acts 9: 26-30 tells of Barnabas’ defense of Paul when he was trying to gain acceptance into Jerusalem. Have you ever spoken up for someone when others didn’t think too highly of them? Is there a time when you should have?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Find someone this week and give them a push of encouragement until they have the confidence to move on their own.