

LIVING THE LIFE Part 5: Sharing the Life

Objective: To encourage us to be generous with our lives so that others can live the life too.

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.²⁷ 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. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

Acts 9:26-28

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews.

²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

Acts 11:19-22

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ 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

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

Acts 12:25

³⁶ Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Acts 15:36-41

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you because he is helpful to me in my ministry...

2 Timothy 4:11

- Has anyone ever gone out on a limb for you? What did that do for you? If you're comfortable, share the story with the group.
- We all need people who believe in us when no-one else (including ourselves) will. Who in your life always believes in you? Do you have someone you believe in and are willing to leverage your life for?
- Barnabas' life was defined by his willingness to consistently invest in the lives of others. As a result, it changed the church and world. Do our churches today have this reputation?
- Because Barnabas was willing to "Share the Life" we have Paul and we have the Gospel of Mark. What kind of impact do you think the church could have if more of us lived like Barnabas?

Consider this week:

- If you don't already, pray that God will give you someone that you can invest in.

Final thought:

Make it a focus of your life to share "the life" with others by consistently investing in them. Even when it doesn't make sense.



Living The Life