

## Upside Down Part 5

### Ordinary People with an Extraordinary Mission

#### **Acts 17:6 (TLB)**

*“Paul and Silas have turned the rest of the world upside down, and now they are here disturbing our city,”*

#### **Acts 2:42-46 (NLT)**

*<sup>42</sup>All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper<sup>[a]</sup>), and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup>And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup>They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup>They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity<sup>[b]</sup>—*

- In the early church, the church wasn’t just a place it was a mission. It wasn’t an event; it was a radical revolution.
- It was so attractive that every day people were added.
- So devoted to this mission that they were willing to give their lives for it to spread.
- They didn’t want anyone to miss out.
- A bunch of ordinary people with an extraordinary mission!

#### **Acts 4:36 (NLT)**

*<sup>36</sup>For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”).*

- This was his reputation...what he was known for.
- More than a pat on the back. *Encouragement: Parakletos* (same as Holy Spirit) means to advocate, to come alongside someone to strengthen them.
- The early church needed courage in the face of persecution, and this gave Barnabas great influence. (He earned it)
- What can we learn from Barnabas about living on mission?

### He Opened the Door

- He opened doors for those who couldn’t open them for themselves.
- Saul faced resistance before he got going...

#### **Acts 9:26-28 (NLT)**

***26** When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! **27** Then Barnabas brought him to*

*the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. 28 So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.*

- When Barnabas stood beside Paul, it opened the door for all that God would do through him. All the letters that were written that became our New Testament, all the churches that were started, all the other doors that Paul opened because Barnabas opened his.

*Ex. Opened doors for me: mom and dad to salvation, Bobbie Poole to serving, Tony and Sheryll to ministry.*

- Someone opened a door for you and me. To find freedom, to find friends, to find a family, to find a relationship with Jesus.
- Who in your life needs you to open the door?
- There are people all around us in our families, in our church, at work and at school standing at unopened doors.
- Not all of us will be called to preach like Paul, but all of us can be door openers.
- Barnabas went and found Paul and then took the back seat so Paul could step into his purpose. He found joy in helping others get ahead.

### **God Opened His Eyes**

- God gave Barnabas a spiritual vision: sons and daughters of encouragement should desire this from the Lord.
- Barnabas saw things in Paul that everyone else missed. They saw Paul's past while Barnabas saw his future.
- When you have spiritual eyes, you can declare spiritual things.
- As sons and daughters of encouragement, God gives us the ability to see what He sees and say what He says:
  - Parents: we can prophesy over our kids and speak life to their potential
  - Those who are married can show the joy and fulfillment of biblical marriage
  - All of us: when the world says this generation is lost, we declare they are called for such a time as this and full of God's purpose.
  - When others see bondage, we see and declare freedom.
- The Holy Spirit hovers over, waiting on the Word of God to be declared. "Let there be light" God did say, "It sure is dark out here."

### **He Opened His Hand**

#### **Acts 4:37 (NIV)**

*Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.*

- At this time, owning property was very rare. This wasn't just an investment he sold. It represented his authority and his place in society. There was a good chance he would never have the opportunity to buy another piece of land.
- Extravagant Generosity! All of them did stuff like this: unity was their superpower. They made sacrifices so that every need was met and so that the work continued to place like Ephesus and Macedonia...the uttermost parts of the world.

#### **Proverbs 11:24**

*The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed;*

- Barnabas put God first because He trusted Him. Our level of obedience and generosity reveals how much we trust God. It's not a "have to" it's a "get to!"
- He can do so much more through us together than what we could do on our own.
- They knew that generations depended on their generosity. We will win the heart of the next generation by going ALL IN!
- Barnabas was willing to turn his world upside down so that someone else's world could be turned right side up. This kind of generosity is God's calling on the church.
- Paul learned a few things from Barnabas...

#### **1 Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV)**

*Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.*

#### **Verse 3**

*But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.*

- Edification: Built Up
- Exhortation: Strengthened and Comfort

#### **What name would your friends give you?**

- His parents named him Joseph (Exalted), but the Apostles said if Encouragement had a son, it would be you.
- Son/daughter of anger, criticism, doubt, complicated, discouragement?
- Barnabas was one of the greatest builders of the early church, simply and powerfully through encouragement. This calling is on you and me.

*Let's allow the Holy Spirit to turn the world upside down through encouragement!*