

Be Real in Your Encouragement

Acts 9:20-30

“Encouragement is about instilling courage in the hearts of those who have lost theirs to fear and doubt. Therefore, encouragement is about people. Anyone who wants to be an encourager must be one whose highest priority is people.” - David Jeremiah

*“The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth. It is obvious that man is himself a traveler; that the purpose of this world is not ‘to have and to hold’ but ‘to give and to serve.’ There can be no other meaning.”
- Sir Wilfred T Grenfell*

I. Barnabas’ picture of Paul’s potential. (V.20-21)

- A. He saw Paul’s potential to convince the lost.

Acts 9:20 *And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.*

Galatians 1:23 *But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. (V.24) And they glorified God in me.*

“Call Saul misguided, mislead, or mistaken - but don’t call Saul mild. If you scratched him, he bled commitment. Whether he was Saul, the legalist, or Paul, the apostle of grace, he couldn’t sit still. Cause driven. Single - minded. Focused like a hawk on prey. With him, you were either in or out, cold or hot. Whether persecuting disciples or making them, Paul impacted people.” - Max Lucado

- B. He saw Paul’s potential to combat the loss.

Acts 9:21 *But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? (V.22) But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.*

II. Barnabas’ perception of Paul’s perseverance. (V.23-25)

- A. He saw a man that didn’t become disheartened at threats.

Acts 9:23 *And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him.*

2 Corinthians 4:17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*

Paul had a stubbornness, and relentless spirit of determination.

Philippians 1:21 *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

- B. He saw a man that wasn’t discouraged by trouble.

Acts 9:24 *But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. (V.25) Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.*

III. Barnabas’ promotion of Paul as a preacher. (V.26-30)

“Do all the good you can, to all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can.” - D. L. Moody

A. Barnabas emphasized the conversion of Paul.

Acts 9:27 *But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.*

Acts 9:3 *And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: (V.4) And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*

B. Barnabas emphasized the conduct of Paul.

“When we are encouraged by another person, we need to remember the benefit it brought to us. When we were a problem, and someone saw the potential in us, we need to be on the lookout for the potential in others.” - David Jeremiah

Acts 9:27 . . . and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. (V.28) And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. (V.29) And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. (V.30) Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.



A vertical graphic with a background image of several people's faces. The text is centered and reads: "Be REAL In Your: Relationships Encouragement Attitude Life. A Teaching Series By Dr. Hampton Drum." The word "REAL" is in a larger, bold font than the other words. The background image shows a woman on the left, a man in the center, and another woman on the right, all looking towards the camera with various expressions.