

God and the Ancients: Barnabas

Encouragement – Pa-Ra-Klee-Sees (paraklesis) Encouragement, Exhortation, Comfort, ‘to be called alongside’

1. Encouragement as uplifting comfort.
2. Encouragement as urgent challenge.

And the truth I want you to grasp this morning is:

Everyone can be Barnabas. Everyone NEEDS Barnabas.

Acts 4:34–37 (CSB)

³⁴For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, ³⁵and laid them at the apostles’ feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need. ³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, **the one the apostles called Barnabas** (which is translated Son of Encouragement), ³⁷sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

Acts 9:26–27 (CSB)

²⁶When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, since they did not believe he was a disciple. ²⁷Barnabas, however, took him and brought him to the apostles and explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had talked to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 11:19–24 (CSB)

¹⁹Now those who had been scattered as a result of the persecution that started because of Stephen made their way as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰But there were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹The Lord’s hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. ²²News about them reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to travel as far as Antioch. ²³When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged all of them to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts, ²⁴for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And large numbers of people were added to the Lord.

Acts 11:25–26 (CSB)

²⁵Then he went to Tarsus to search for Saul, ²⁶and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught large numbers. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

Acts 13:1–5 (CSB)

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off. ⁴So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵Arriving in Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their assistant.

Acts 15:1–2 (CSB)

Some men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom prescribed by Moses, you cannot be saved.” ²After Paul and Barnabas had engaged them in serious argument and debate, Paul and Barnabas and some others were appointed to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about this issue.

Acts 15:35–41 (CSB)

³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas, along with many others, remained in Antioch, teaching and proclaiming the word of the Lord. ³⁶ After some time had passed, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit the brothers and sisters in every town where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they’re doing.” ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take along John who was called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take along this man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone on with them to the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed off to Cyprus. ⁴⁰ But Paul chose Silas and departed, after being commended by the brothers and sisters to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ He traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

2 Timothy 4:11 (CSB)

¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry.

Pastor’s Challenge:

Ask God to give you someone to encourage in word and action today.