

Sermon Notes – Acts Lessons from the life of Barnabas

- Have you ever had a nickname? Did it emerge from a context of affection or bullying?

We are introduced to Joseph by way of an illustration in Acts 4: 36,37.

- What do we learn about this man from these two verses such that the apostles were to give him the nickname ‘Barnabas’?

He next appears after Saul’s conversion as Saul returns to Jerusalem from Damascus and attempts to get alongside the disciples (Acts 9:26-30).

- Why do you think Barnabas got involved (v27) and what level of risk was he taking?
- Recall an occasion when you took a risk, stepped out and got involved.
- How did it make you feel?
- Are there areas of church life where you would like to get involved but fear or concern holds you back? Could you be more involved and part of a team and if so which one?

Earlier in this chapter Peter had explained how God had led him to bring the gospel to the Gentiles. Now read about how the gospel spread to Antioch (Acts 11:19-27).

- Why was Barnabas simply the right person to be sent to Antioch?

Luke (the author of Acts) clearly holds Barnabas in high esteem v24?

- What does that suggest to you of the kind of man he was?
- How can we use the opportunities provided by our Christmas services to emulate Barnabas’s passion for the gospel and reach out to others?

Share ideas of how you can be more intentional about reaching out to friends, neighbours and colleagues with the invitation of Christmas.

Write down your action plan for reaching out:

Who are you going to invite?

What are you going to do?

- How much of a risk might it take to invite our friends, neighbours and family to church at Christmas?
- From what we have learnt about Barnabas, what has inspired you? Encouraged you?

Pray together about how you can be a Barnabas to others, both individually and as a group.

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