How to be an Encourager Like Barnabas

Greg Kline · Acts 4:32–37

INTRODUCTION

- When Barnabas was named son of encouragement, it's because he was willing to give and do whatever it would take for somebody to be no longer in need.
- Not only was Barnabas not afraid, he was trusting and he vouched for Saul at a moment when public perception was not for him, but rather against him. That is an encourager.
- Barnabas did not give up even on Mark, when Paul was ready to kind of wash his hands of him.

1 Recognize the Need for Encouragers

1 Thessalonians 5:9–14; Titus 2:1–8

- Not only does the world need encouragers, the church needs encouragers, and Paul recognized that need.
- Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
- I need to look for opportunities to serve, to be an encouragement, to build up rather than tear down or stay neutral.
- Admonish the idle, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak. Be patient with them all.
- The strong need to be looking for the weak to encourage. The weak need to be willing to raise their hands and say, I need some encouragement.

2 Get Close to Other Christians

Hebrews 3:12–13

- If I'm going to be an encourager, I have to get close to other Christians so that they will be willing to tell me.
- Exhort one another every day as long as it's called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- But he first had to be close enough to them to understand there was a need.
- We have to know who people are and what needs of encouragement they have if we are going to be able to exhort one another.

3 Be the One Ready to Serve

Isaiah 6:1–8

- If we're going to be in encouragement, it means that not only recognizing there's a need, not only recognizing that I have to get close, it means I have to do it and go.
- And I said, Here am I, send me.
- It's one thing to be willing, and that's a big hurdle in and of itself.

- What does it say about me if I let a day pass and I don't look for or take the opportunities that are staring me in the face?
- It's often said in the sports world, the best ability is availability.

4 True Encouragement Demands Forgiveness and Patience

Matthew 18:21–35; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

- Love, true love, true encouragement, demands not only forgiveness, but patience as well.
- Barnabas showed an important trait, not only forgiveness, but an unwilling to give up on people, no matter how difficult they may have made it for him.
- I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times, or seventy times seven times.
- So also my heavenly father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.
- We have to be willing to be forgiving, to be kind.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you Barnabas or are you somebody that Barnabas could encourage? If you're somebody who needs encouragement, please make that need known.**

MY NOTES