

BARNABAS—SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT:
MAKING A WAY FOR OTHERS

OPEN / PREPARE SCRIPTURES from Hebrews

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

13 But **encourage one another daily**, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. **Hebrews 3:12-13**

24 And let us consider how we may **spur one another on** toward love and good deeds.

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **let us encourage one another** — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:24-25**

Intro: I'm glad you're back! "I just wanted you to keep saying that"

Explain plan for this message

I. WHO was Barnabas, one who "made a way for others"?

- ❖ Given name was Joseph; a Levite and native of Cyprus (4:36)

- ❖ Nicknamed the “Son of Encouragement” by the apostles (4:36)
- ❖ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith... (11:24a)
- ❖ As a leader in the church at Antioch, responded to God’s call to be sent out on a new ministry endeavor (13:1-5)
- ❖ Faced persecution and the threat of persecution as he ministered with Paul in preaching and teaching ministry (13:49-50; 14:5-7; 15:26)

II. HOW did Barnabas “make a way for others”?

- ✓ **Gave generously as God called and enabled him (4:37)
- ✓ He brought in a new, gifted-and-called-by-God leader, whom everyone was afraid of. (Saul/Paul; 9:26-29)
- ✓ **Commissioned by Jerusalem church to check on the emerging church of God in Antioch (11:20-22)
- ✓ He was **glad** to see new works of God in others’ lives and “Encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts” (11:23)
- ✓ Sought out Saul/Paul, about ten years after their first contact, and engaged him in joint ministry efforts (11:25-26)
- ✓ **He preached the gospel with boldness and was used of God to bring many to faith in Christ (14:1-3, 21)
- ✓ He had faith to believe in others who had failed previously, and sought to re-employ them in ministry efforts (12:25; 13:5, 13; 15:36-41: See Col 4:10, 2 Tim 4:11)

- ✓ He seemed content when others surpassed him--namely Paul, whom he had helped get a ministry start (13:9 and following)
- ✓ He taught others Biblical truth, with the goal being to build them up, make them strong, and help them last (11:23,26; 13:43; 14:22)

III. WHAT could this have to do with us?

(Return to Heb. 3:12-13 and 10:24-25)

- Encourage one another **Daily**—is it today??? Encourage for a soft heart towards God--check out the warning! (Heb 3:12-13)
- Consider (and look for) ways to spur one another on (Heb 10:24) NLT says it like this: *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.* (Message: “Let’s see how inventive we can be...”)

Note the goal of our encouragement/spurring one another on:

Toward love

Toward good deeds [God’s purposes!]

- (*but*) *Engage yourself* in encouraging others (notice the contrast with the previous statement)
- Do so “all the more”...this quality/practice should grow!
- Until you see “the Day” approaching!

Conclusion