

BARNABAS "The Son of Good Coaching, Part 2 of 3"

I. INTRODUCTION

A. DICK HALVERSON

Dick was there when Billy Graham began, with World Vision, at Watergate, at the Presidential Prayer Breakfasts. Later Chaplain of the U. S. Senate. Dick Halverson was a Barnabas.

B. BARNABAS

1. Leader from age 30 to 52 (27-49 A.D.)
2. Wealthy, conservative, dependable, solid. White collar guy.
3. Defined "friend"
4. Mistaken for the Greek god "Zeus." Tall, large, square-shouldered, soft spoken. NFL fullback. Think of an NFL coach like Tony Dungy.

II. BARNABAS LISTENED AND GAVE CREDIBILITY

27 AD Jesus crucified, resurrected

29 AD Saul/Paul leads the first persecution

31 AD Saul/Paul converted on the Damascus Road. He preached in Damascus, Syria and Arabia to cause enough trouble that folks wanted to kill him (Acts 9. 19-25; 2 Cor. 11.32-33; Gal. 1. 18-20)

33 AD He escaped Damascus and returned to Jerusalem. He tried to join the disciples, but they hid. Meanwhile his old Pharisee friends shunned him for being the worst traitor. They wanted to kill him.

ACTS 9. 26-28

A. BARNABAS listened so well he could tell Saul's story

B. DO YOU LISTEN TO STRANGERS AND NEWCOMERS? THE BLESSING YOU GET IS THE BLESSING YOU GIVE AWAY!

TRUE STORY: Sam listened to Bill. Bill listened to Bob. Sam and Bill and Bob changed the world for millions.

*"You can go in too deeply and stay in too long
And forget the people outside the door.
As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,
Near enough to God to hear Him and know that He is there, But not so far from
men as not to hear them,
And remember they are there, too...
So I shall stand by the door and wait
For those who seek it.*

*'I had rather be a door keeper'
So I stand by the door." -Sam Shoemaker*

III. BARNABAS MODELED LOVE

A. Every time we see Barnabas in the Bible we see him with people and helping people.

B. ISN'T FRIENDLINESS MANDATORY FOR CHRISTIANS?

C. Paul was always bright and always right. And always obsessive-compulsive. How did Paul learn that love (not correctness or performance) is "the most excellent way"? **Did Paul learn love by what he observed in Barnabas?**

1 COR. 13.4 (Barnabas never gives up. Barnabas cares more for others than for himself. Barnabas doesn't want what he doesn't have. . .)

IV. BARNABAS CHEERED FOR AND ENABLED THE GROWTH OF YOUNG BELIEVERS

A. ANTIOCH IN SYRIA, 44 AD. Third largest city in the Roman Empire (Chicago). Barnabas was middle-aged, 47 years old.

ACTS 11.19-24

B. The Jerusalem leaders had to send an overseer for this huge evangelistic revival in Antioch to make sure that the young and ignorant believers were not starting a crazy cult. They needed a leader who was **DEPENDABLE, SOLID, ORTHODOX, AUTHORITATIVE, APOSTOLIC, COURAGEOUS, INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. BARNABAS.**

C. **HE CHEERED AND ENCOURAGED.** Not criticized and corrected.

D. **Where there is life, there is a mess! GET USED TO IT! BE PATIENT!**
You cannot make your grass grow with your lawn mower!