

Study notes based on Sunday 14 October 2018

Read Acts 4:32-37

1. Barnabas means Son of Encouragement. To what extent do you identify with this statement 'God has hard wired us to thrive on encouragement.' Share some memorable moments of those who have encouraged you.
2. How easy do you find it to encourage others? What might prevent us from offering encouragement? How easy do you find it to receive appreciation? Why is this?
3. Reads Acts 4:26-31. Have you ever been suspicious of someone, until a person you trust has vouched for them? To what extent was Barnabas taking a risk?
4. Barnabas could see potential in people. Who has seen potential in you? What do we do when we identify potential in someone to be a leader, or a Bible teacher or...? How can these gifts be developed?
5. See Acts 13:1-3 and Acts 13:42-46. What significance does the change in order of mentioning the two apostles indicate? How would you feel if you were in Barnabas' shoes if you read what Luke had written?
6. Read Acts 15:36-41. Paul wrote John Mark off because of one incident of abandonment. Barnabas stuck with him, even though it meant a parting of the ways with Paul. How good are we as Christians at giving people a second chance. Do we sometimes think it safer to write people off and avoid the risks? How do we decide?
7. See Acts 4:36-37, Acts 11:27-30. Consider the ways in which a financial investment in a cause is an encouragement to the recipients?
8. Read Acts 14:8-20. Discuss Paul and Barnabas' response to the mistake of the crowd.
9. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. How might we outwork such a verse in our own church?

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