

Leadership Through Discipleship

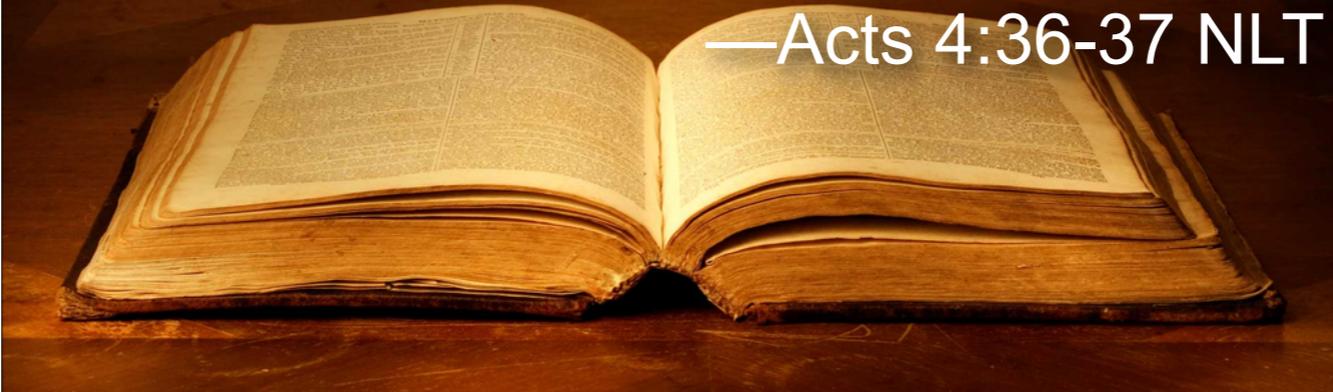
Learning to Lead
by Living to Follow

Terry R. Baughman
Lead Pastor



“There was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.”

—Acts 4:36-37 NLT



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their virtue is encouragement

BARNABAS
The Power of Encouragement

October 25, 2015
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Barnabas

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A Leader becomes a mentor, an encourager to new believers and maturing disciples.
A discipleship leader learns to believe in others and extend a helping hand.



Introduction of Barnabas



- Acts 4:32-33 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.
- And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Barnabas, a Levite from Cyprus named Joses [or Joseph], sold property and donated the proceeds to the apostles in the beginning of the church in Acts. He was part of the beginning in a trend of personal sacrifices to provide needs for the ministry. Many of the early believers were prompted to sell their possession and present the money to the Apostles for distribution to those with needs. Though this was not commanded it seemed to be the response of the new believers to totally give themselves to the work of the ministry.

–Acts 4:32–35

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Introduction of Barnabas



- Acts 4:34-35 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid *them* at the **apostles'** feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

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Introduction of Barnabas



- Acts 4:36-37 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

—Acts 4:32–35

36 And Joses,[d] who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

— Apparently, Joses was well known by the apostles and his reputation for encouragement grew to the extent that they nicknamed him Barnabas (meaning son of encouragement).

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We are more acquainted with the **negative example** seen in the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–4).

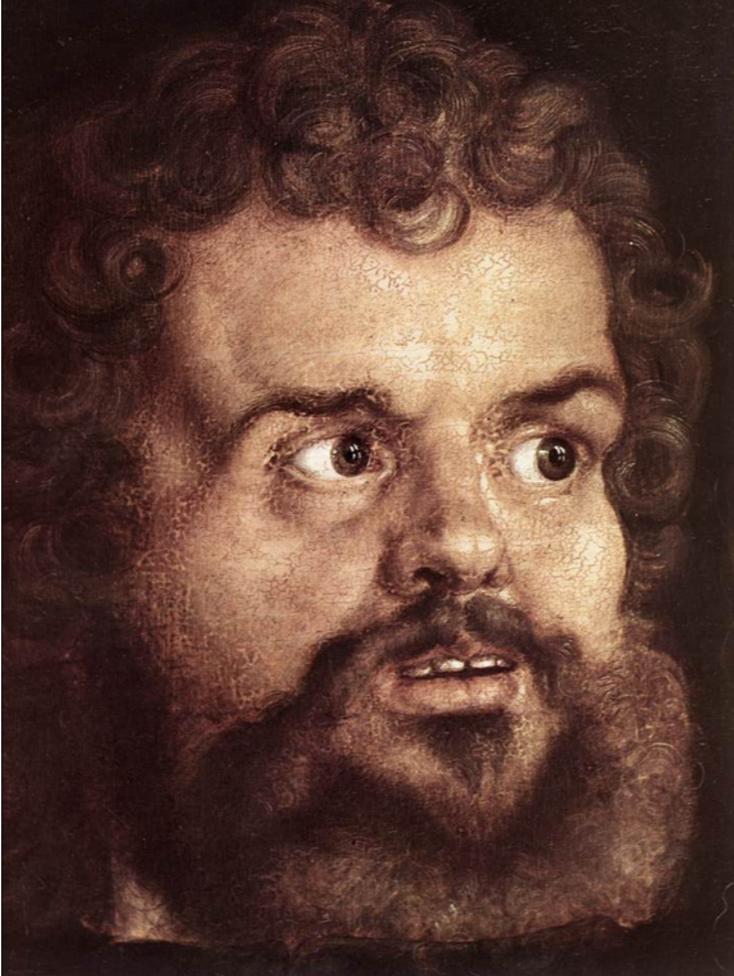
5 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?"

She said, "Yes, for so much."

9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. 11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.



“As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.”

—Acts 9

Saul of Tarsus

SAUL OF TARSUS —Because of Paul’s reputation as Saul of Tarsus, most Christians were fearful of him. Previously, it was his ambition to destroy as many Christians as possible. Saul viewed the Christians as heretics to the faith and enemies of the Lord God. It took a dynamic vision on the road to Damascus and suffering blindness for three days for Saul to indeed believe that Jesus was the Lord God of the Scripture. (See Acts chapter nine.)

After Paul’s conversion in Damascus, where he was filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized, he immediately began to preach Jesus publicly. Still many disciples were afraid that it was just a trick to take them captive and deliver them to the chief priests for persecution and death. The Jews, on the other hand, were seeking to kill Paul to silence this bold new advocate for Christianity. When the plot was learned, some disciples helped Paul escape over the wall of the city at night and he returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”

Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.[a] It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

- **Barnabas Believed in Saul's Conversion**



Barnabas became a leader among the believers in Christ and is mentioned frequently as an active minister in the spreading of the Gospel. He is mentioned as a traveling companion with Paul in the book of Acts and on several other occasions in Paul's letters. It is no wonder that a close affinity developed between them for it was Barnabas who first accepted Paul in Jerusalem, believing that he was genuinely converted to follow Jesus and divinely called of God.



- Barnabas first accepted Paul in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Paul tried to join up with the disciples but again they did not believe that he had truly become one of them. This is when Barnabas stepped in, heard his testimony, and learned of his bold preaching in the name of Jesus while in Damascus. Barnabas shared Paul's testimony with the other disciples so that they might come to accept him and trust in the ministry to which God was leading him.

-Acts 9:26-30

Barnabas presents Saul to the Disciples in Jerusalem



- Acts 9:26 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.
- 27 But **Barnabas** took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.
- 28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.

Acts 9: 26 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.

27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.

29 And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.

30 When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

1 — Encouragers believe in others

- Discipleship Leaders mentor and encourage people by believing in them and helping them become what God has called them to become.



Barnabas was crucial to establishing the believers at Antioch. The church at Jerusalem sent him to this city to encourage the believers and preach the good news of Jesus Christ to others. There was a great response and many were added to the church (Acts 11:2–24). He was busy in the work of the Lord in that city, but still found time to seek for Saul in Tarsus. He also brought him to Antioch and apparently involved him in the work. So great was the growth of the church in Antioch that this is where followers of Christ were first called “Christians.”

See Acts 11:19–30

–vs. 23 “he was glad, and encouraged them all...”

–vs. 26 “the disciples were first called Christians”

Barnabas sent to Antioch



- **Acts 11:22-24** Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and **encouraged them all** that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

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22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

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While most of the disciples felt more comfortable ministering to the Jews (those of the circumcision), Barnabas and Paul were called and commissioned to go to the Gentiles to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

– Galatians 2:9

Barnabas brings Paul to Antioch to teach believers



- **Acts 11:25-26** Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. **And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.**

See Acts 11:19–30

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– Galatians 2:9

9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

2—Encouragers serve with others

- Discipleship Leaders encourage by serving in ministry alongside others who are learning and growing in their discipleship.



Barnabas still took time to mentor others while involved in the rapid growth of the new church. Not only did he minister alongside Saul but also his nephew John Mark, involving him in the ministry as a young boy. Barnabas brought him with them on a missionary journey. On a later missionary journey Paul becomes a mentor to Silas taking him as his companion while Barnabas takes John Mark.

Acts 12:24–25

“Barnabas and Saul” worked together and are frequently mentioned in that order through the seventh verse of Acts chapter 13. After verse seven, there seems to be shift of priority in the ministry of Saul of Tarsus. Saul becomes Paul and begins to emerge into his own ministry, even mentioned in priority with Barnabas (Paul is mentioned before Barnabas). The **mentor** takes a back seat and lets the **mentored** take the lead. In the NKJV the following coupling of names are used:

- “Barnabas and Saul” in Acts 11:30; 12:25; 13:2, 7
- “Paul and Barnabas” in Acts 13:43, 46, 50; 15:2, 22, 35

The inverse is also used, but with less frequency. Paul will become more and more the focus of the biblical account.

- “Barnabas and Paul” in Acts 14:14; 15:12; 15:25

Barnabas and Saul chosen by the Spirit for service



- **Acts 13:2** As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me **Barnabas and Saul** for the work to which I have called them."

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Barnabas believed in Paul. He stood with him, ministered with him, and encouraged him during the time when he had to prove his loyalty and authenticity to other believers. Perhaps if there had not been a Barnabas to come alongside Paul with encouragement, believing in him, Paul may have never been accepted by the faith community.

—Without Paul we would not have seen the incredible revival among the Gentiles recorded in the Book of Acts.

—Without Paul we would have a very small New Testament; he contributed thirteen epistles to the canon! That is almost half of the 27 books of the New Testament! Without Paul we would have a very limited view of God's grace to change lives and give hope. One never knows the potential of one convert. All they need is a little encouragement!

3—Encouragers reconcile others

- Discipleship Leaders encourage by mediation, seeking to reconcile differences and bring together people of opposing viewpoints.



Discipleship Leaders encourage by recognizing and forgiving mistakes, by always allowing the opportunity to try again! Encouragers forgive and seek to reconcile others.

—People will make mistakes ... YOU will make mistakes.

—Barnabas extended a second chance, to Saul of Tarsus and to John Mark. When others were unwilling to trust, Barnabas extended grace and the opportunity to minister.

—Discipleship Leaders encourage by mediation, seeking to reconcile differences and bring together people of opposing viewpoints. “son of consolation” (define: comfort received by a person after a loss or disappointment. — to console, comfort, offer solace.)

Paul & Barnabas represent the Gentiles in Jerusalem



- **Acts 15:1-2** And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." Therefore, when Paul and **Barnabas** had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and **Barnabas** and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

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15:25 it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth.

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The Elders in Jerusalem sent Paul and Barnabas with a letter of encouragement



- **Acts 15:30-31** So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.

Later on after they met with the Elders and Apostles in Jerusalem concerning the Gentile mission...

-Came to a conclusion and drafted a letter to believers

Acts 15:30 So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.

4—Encouragers stand strong

- Discipleship Leaders encourage by standing strong on their convictions and beliefs.



Barnabas was named among those who had risked their lives for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
NKJ Acts 15:25 "...Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Paul and Barnabas were not reluctant to dispute with the elders and the apostles in defense of the Gentile believers. They denounced the teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised according to the custom of Moses in order to be saved.

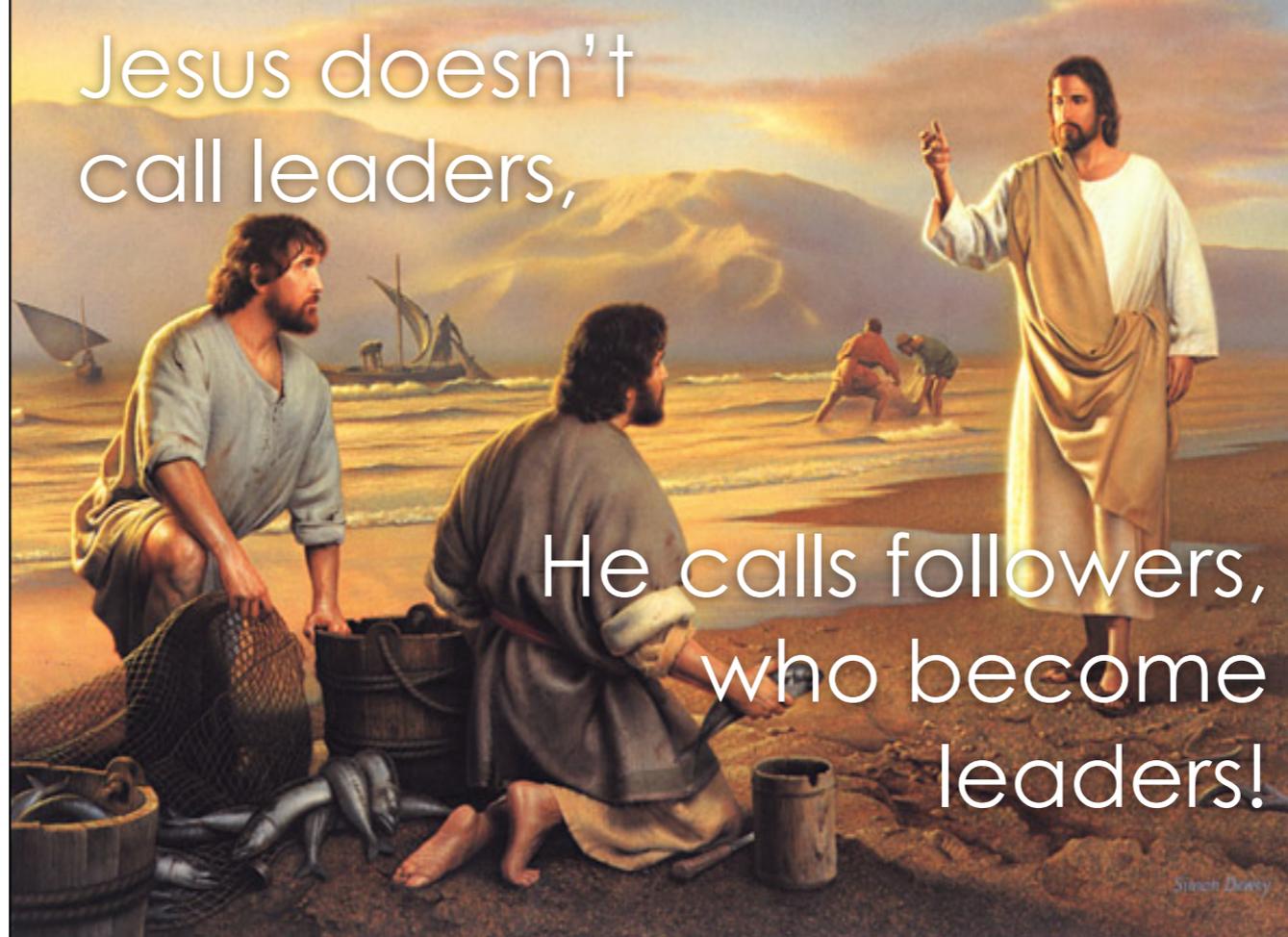
– Acts 15:1–2, 12 (above)

Paul & Barnabas continue in Antioch



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Jesus doesn't call leaders,
He calls followers,
who become
leaders!