

The Sons & Daughters of Encouragement

The Reach of an Encourager

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (March 10, 2013)

Introduction: Last Sunday we studied **Acts 4:36**, and many other passages, that introduced us to a man named Joseph/Joses. He was renamed the "Son of Encouragement" by early Christians because of his amazing Christ-like spirit. We decided to make it our goal, over these few weeks, to study together and see how we can become children of God like Barnabas. How can we become Sons & Daughters of Encouragement? Today I want us to consider what kind of a reach he had. Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. Encouragers Reach Up

(Consider The God ABOVE You)

- A. Search the Ways of God (**Acts 4:36-37**)
- B. Seek the Witness of God (**Acts 9:26-27**)
- C. Start the Work of God (**Acts 12:25**)

II. Encouragers Reach In

(Consider The ATTITUDE Inside of You)

- A. Demonstrate Christ In Your Life (**Acts 11:24**)
- B. Display Contentment In Your Life (**Acts 13:49-52**)
- C. Deflect Criticism In Your Life (**Acts 15:36-40**)

III. Encouragers Reach Out

(Consider Those AROUND You)

- A. Edify The Desperate (**Acts 9:26-27**)
- B. Exhort The Disciples (**Acts 11:22-23**)
- C. Embrace The Dejected (**Acts 15:36-40**)

IV. Encouragers Reach Around

(Consider Those ATTACHED to You)

- A. Promote The Work of God (**Acts 4:36-37**)
- B. Praise The Wisdom of God (**Acts 11:23-26**)
- C. Participate In The Will of God (**Acts 13:1-3**)



Conclusion: I look at Barnabas and realize just how far I have to go to reach his level of spirituality. He was in sync with the Holy Spirit to such an extreme that he completely surrendered to the will of God even if it meant radically serving God with reckless abandon. It may be our desire to seek out a Barnabas to encourage us, but God's desire is that become a Barnabas! Are you ready to become a son or daughter of encouragement? Are you ready to fully surrender to God?