

The Sons & Daughters of Encouragement

The Responsibility of an Encourager

Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (March 17, 2013)

Introduction: For the past few Sunday's we have been studying about a man named Joseph. He was renamed (Barnabas) 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 the responsibility we have to achieve this task. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. Consider Your Target

- A. Encouraging the Church (Acts 4:32-37)
- B. Encouraging Someone Ostracized (Acts 9:26-32)
- C. Encouraging Someone M.I.A. (Acts 11:25-30)
- D. Encouraging Someone Who Failed (Acts 15:36-31)

II. Consider Your Gift (Romans 12:8)

- A. Encouragers are Burden Bearers
- B. Encouragers are Load Lifters
- C. Encouragers are Mighty Ministers
- D. Encouragers are Body Builders

III. Consider Your Challenge (Philippians 3:12-14)

- A. A Humble Evaluation
- B. A Holy Aspiration
- C. A Healthy Determination
- D. A Heavenly Invitation

IV. Consider Your Enemy (1 Thessalonians 3:1-8)

- A. The Pain of Discouragement
- B. The Power of Discouragement
- C. The Power of Encouragement
- D. The Practice of Encouragement



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? Will you accept the responsibility to be an encourager?