

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

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APRIL 15, 2018

"EVERYDAY HERO'S – BARNABUS - ENCOURAGER-EXTRAORDINAIRE

ACTS 4:31-37

You perhaps have watched Denver channel 7 and their segment on what they call – “7 Everyday Hero’s” which is about ordinary people who simply do extraordinary things for others in the community.

Well I want us to look at some Everyday Hero's from the Bible who do some extraordinary things for the Kingdom of God. Now we don't often think of these individuals as hero's, but I believe they are and we are going to examine some of them in the next several weeks.

I love to read and watch the biographies of great and ordinary people. One of my goals this year is to see how many biographies I can read.

Now the study of Bible biographies can help us in one of two ways:

- ◆ Examples to avoid.
- ◆ Examples to emulate

Last week we looked at the life of **Philip** who was simply an Everyday Hero; the deacon who was also an evangelist and how God used this ordinary man to do extraordinary things for the glory of God in *Acts 8*. We learned that: God Had a Man; That Man Had a Message and That Message Had Power.

Now this morning we look at *V-36* which says, “*And Joses/Joseph, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement).*” Here we find that the name, Barnabas, which means Son of encouragement.

It is because Barnabas used his gift of encouragement that Paul was able to become the person he was and write 13 books of the New Testament and it was because of his encouragement that John Mark became useful for God's service.

The first character trait we see in Barnabas, from the Scripture we read in *Acts 4* is found in verse 37 which tells us that . . .

I. BARNABAS WAS A MAN OF SACRIFICE – Vs.36-37

A second characteristic that we see is...

II..BARNABAS WAS SLOW TO JUDGE – ACTS 9:26-27

Because of Barnabas' encouragement and willingness to be slow to judge help Paul to become the Apostle that he was and to give Mark a second chance, Mark became a useful tool in the hands of the Lord. (*Acts 13:13; 15:37-39*)

A third characteristic is that . . .

III. BARNABAS WAS A SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE

Acts 11:19-24 Barnabas influenced these new believers in their spiritual walk and because he used his gift of encouragement.
The last characteristic that we see is that . . .

IV. BARNABAS WORKED FOR THE SUCCESS OF OTHERS

He was unselfish. Look with me at **Acts 11:25-26**.

Being sacrificial, being slow to judge, desiring to be a spiritual influence on others and working for the success of others are not spiritual gifts, but are traits that each one of us can have.

You have the opportunity to be a **BARNABAS** or you can be a **BARNACLE**. All of us at some point have probably hindered the purpose of the church. That's not an excuse to allow it to continue.

Will you be a Barnabas, so God can use you to be an ENCOURAGER for His church and Kingdom?