

The Development of a Missionary Heart Pt 1

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec 4th

A Missionary is simply “A person sent on a mission!” Jesus was the ultimate “Missionary”.

“As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” Jn 20:21 Barnabas was one of the first N.T.

Missionaries. He was “sent” to Antioch; (Acts 11:19-25) Asia minor; (Acts 13) and Cyprus. Acts 15:39

Ultimately He was sent to reveal and reflect God’s heart! 2 Cor. 5:20 *“we are ambassadors for Christ”*

Missionaries are not “Super Saints”! They’re “ordinary” Christians who have recognized God’s “extraordinary” heart and partnered with Him to reach others. By examining Barnabas’ journey, we can better understand God’s process for developing His heart in each of us.

1. BECOME AN ENCOURAGEMENT IN YOUR CHURCH Acts 4:32-36

“Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,” (Acts 4:36) Parak’lēsis: comfort/encouragement (Jn 14:16)

A. BARNABAS WAS A BUILDER! (Acts 11:24)

1. Encouraged the Church in Jerusalem. Acts 4:36
2. Encouraged Saul when others rejected him. Acts 9:27
3. Encouraged the Church in Antioch. Acts 11:22,23
4. Personally sought Saul to help in Antioch. Acts 11:25
5. Chosen to plant churches with Paul. Acts 13
6. Encouraged John Mark. Acts 15:37-39

B. HIS NAME WAS CHANGED TO REFLECT HIS NATURE. Acts 4:36; Pr. 22:1

- 1) You don’t choose our birth name, but we can choose what we’ll become known as.
- 2) Barnabas had already developed a reputation as an encourager. Acts 11:24 *“For he was a good man (agathos: useful, beneficial) and full of the Holy Ghost”*
Are you “useful” to God?

C. WE’LL NEVER IMPACT THE WORLD FOR CHRIST IF WE NEGLECT THOSE AROUND US and ABROAD.

- 1) 80% of all missionaries will not finish one term on the mission field* because of either...
a) Interpersonal conflict b) Discouragement.

*<http://worldim.com/2012/01/lets-reverse-the-statistics/>

Gal. 6:10 *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good (benefit) unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”*

- 2) Are you a “Son/daughter” of consolation?

Ina Ogdon 1913 “Brighten the Corner Where you are”

2. BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE TO ACCOMPLISH GOD’S WILL. (Acts 4:37)

A. HE UNDERSTAND STEWARDSHIP.

- 1) A Steward is a Manager, not an owner! (1 Cor. 10:26; Mal. 3:9,10)
- 2) The early church understood this! Acts 4:32-37

Acts 4:37 *“Barnabas...Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”*

- 3) King David “Got this” 2 Sam. 24:23,24

- a) To make atonement for his sin, David needed to build an altar. 2 Sam. 24:23,24
- b) David dedicated that land to build God’s Temple. 1 Chron. 29:9-14

“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.”

➤ Are you willing to “Downsize” to “Do More” for God?

**B. GOD CONSIDERS THIS “*Our Reasonable Service*” Ro. 12:1,2 (logikos’ latrei’a)
Rational response and expression of our Worship!**

1) Someday we’ll all “get this”. See Rev. 4:11; Phil. 2:5-10

C. Our Resources are a:

1) Sacred ***Trust***. 1 Tim. 6:17-20 *“Charge them that are rich in this world that they do good, ... be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate... keep (guard) that which is committed to thy trust.”*

2) Specific ***Test***. Mt 25:14-30; Lk 16:10-13

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man’s, who shall give you that which is your own? Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (See also Mt. 16:24-27)

Are you willing to “Downsize” in order to “Do More” for God?

Conclusion:

David Livingstone. “If a commission by an earthly King is considered an honor,
How can a commission by the Heavenly King be considered a Sacrifice?”

*“Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life’s busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.
Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in ‘that day’ my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.
Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice.
Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God’s holy will to cleave;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.
Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its claims I must fulfill, living for self or in His will;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.” C.T. Studd*

Application: What are you willing to do that will outlive you?

Are you willing to:

1. Become an Encourager/builder by investing in others?

2. Sacrifice Earth’s temporary *“wood, hay, stubble”*
for God’s eternal *“Gold, Silver, precious stones”* 1 Cor. 3:10-15?

*“It’s difficult to receive and hold on to the right things,
When we’re too busy pursuing and grabbing the wrong things.*