

The Development of a Missionary Heart Pt 2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec 11

A Missionary is simple “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 “Represent” 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.**

Barnabas was willing to:

1. Become An Encouragement to those around him Acts 4:32-36 ; Gal. 6:10

“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) He Encouraged his church in Jerusalem (Acts 4:36); Saul when others rejected him (Acts 9:27); Encouraged the Church in Antioch (Acts 11:22,23); sought Saul’s to help in Antioch (Acts 11:25); Chosen to plant churches with Paul (Acts 13); Encouraged John Mark after a failure. (Acts 15:37-39)

Acts 11:24 *“For he was a good man, (agathos: useful, beneficial) and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people were added unto the Lord.”*

Are you a “Son/daughter” of consolation?

2. Be Willing To Sacrifice (Prioritize) To Accomplish God’s Will.

This requires us to:

A. Understand Priorities. Jn 21:15 *“Lovest thou me more than these?”*

Col 1:17-18 *“he is before all things, and by him all things consist. he is the head of the body, ... that in all things he might have the preeminence.”* (See also Ex. 20:3; Deut. 6:4,5; Mt. 6:33; Mt 22:37,38)

B. Understand Stewardship.

- 1) A Steward is a **Manager**, not an owner! (Mt 25:14-30; 1 Cor 4:1,2)
- 2) The early church understood this! Acts 4:32
- 3) Barnabas understood this. Acts 4:37
- 4) Someday we’ll understand this! Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 3:9

C) Our Resources Are A Trust And A Test! Luke 16:10-15

3. Believe In The Power Of God To Change Lives. 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17

God is in the saving and Transformation business!

A. Barnabas “Invested” In Others. See Heb. 11:26

- 1) He took risks to work with Saul (Paul). Acts 9:26-28
- 2) He gave John Mark a 2nd chance. (Acts 15:37-39)

4. Expose himself To What God Is Doing Outside Of his Comfort Zone.

A. Barnabas Was Willing To Go On A “Short Term” Mission Trip. (307 miles)

- 1) Rather than criticizing, he encouraged and helped. (Acts 11:19-30)

- B. He Was Willing To “Share The Load” With Others.** Vs 25,26
 1) He discipled Saul (Paul) who later replaced him as the leader. (Acts 13:1)
 2) He had John the Baptist’s attitude: John 3:30 *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”*

B. Became instrumental in raising funds for others. Acts 11:27-30

5. Learn To Listen (And *Respond*) The God’s Voice. ACTS 13:1-4

A. It was while Barnabas and Saul were ministering in Antioch that

God called them to be “Missionaries”! Acts 13:2-4 *“As they ministered to the Lord, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”*

B. Their obedience resulted in the Gospel getting to Europe! (and America!)

Application: To develop into a “World Class Christian”...

1. Purpose to be an encouragement. *Look for ways to Lift up others!*
2. Be willing to Sacrifice the temporary for the Eternal. *“Downsize” to “Do More” for God!*
3. Believe in God’s power to change lives! *Invest in others!*
4. Expose Yourself To What God Is Doing Outside Of your Comfort zone.
Missions newsletters, take missions trips, visit a Crisis Pregnancy Center, Prison, or Rescue Mission.
5. Learn to “Listen” for (and to) God’s Voice. (Isaiah 6:8) *“I heard the voice of the Lord ...who will go for us? Then said I, “Here I am, Send Me!”*

Satan tries to convince us that we are unusable and keeps us so preoccupied with the cares of this world we fail to invest in eternity. (Mark 4:19)

Jesus still challenges us to *“Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also.”* Mt. 6:20,21

Are you willing to exchange your “*wood, hay, and stubble*”, for God’s “*Gold, Silver, and Precious stones*”? 1 Cor. 3:12

Can you imagine the interest on the investment Barnabas has earned because of his “supporting role” in the lives of so many? (1 Cor 2:9)



“Well done, thou good (beneficial) and faithful (pistos) servant: thou hast been faithful (trustworthy) over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

Mt 25:21