

JOSES (BARNABAS)

Intro: The study of Joses is an interesting and profitable study. The first mention of this great man is in the fourth chapter of Acts verse 36 “And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, the son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus,” Notice how the beloved physician describes him after a few years in Acts 11:24 “For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.” While we recognize that he must be considered one of the New Testament’s minor characters, yet we can gain a great deal by studying him. In this lesson let us view Barnabas in three ways.

I. LIBERAL IN GIVING.

A. The early church.

1. The church began on Pentecost, Acts 2.
2. Jews from all over the world came to Jerusalem.
3. Those who became Christians stayed in Jerusalem.
4. This no doubt brought hardship on those who did not normally live there.
5. There is the record of the church helping those in need; Acts 4:34-35 “Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, ³⁵And laid *them* down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.”
6. It is at this point our Barnabas is introduced.

B. Barnabas’ Liberality.

1. Acts 4:36-37 “And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, the son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet.”
 - a. Barnabas sold a piece of land.
 - (1) We do not know if this property was on Cyprus or some other place.
 - (2) We do not know if this was all the property he possessed.
 - b. In contrast to Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) Barnabas gave all the price of the land.
2. Barnabas was not concerned with things of this world.
 - a. Mat. 6:19-21 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
 - b. He did not covet this world’s goods; Luke 12:15 “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”
 - c. He knew the end of this world; 2 Pet. 3:10-12 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ¹¹Seeing then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, ¹²Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the

day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

C. We must be liberal in our giving.

1. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ²Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
2. 2 Cor. 8:7 "Therefore, as ye abound in every *thing*, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."
3. 2 Cor. 9:6-7 "But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."
4. Other examples to follow.
 - a. The poor widow who cast in two mites (all her living) is certainly one to emulate; Mark 12:42-44 "And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. ⁴³And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: ⁴⁴For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living."
 - b. The Macedonians; 2 Cor. 8:1-5 "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; ²How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. ³For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves; ⁴Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

II. INFLUENTIAL WITH OTHERS.

A. Evidence of this with Saul of Tarsus.

1. The Lord met Saul on the road to Damascus; Acts 9:3-6 "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: ⁴And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁵And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks. ⁶And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."
2. Saul goes into Damascus where Ananias comes to him and tells him what he must do.
3. Saul then obeys the gospel.
4. Saul immediately begins preaching the truth concerning Jesus Christ. Plans were made to kill Saul.
5. Saul escapes Damascus and travels to Jerusalem.

6. Acts 9:26-27 “And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him, and brought *him* to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.”
 - a. Details of Barnabas’ knowledge of Saul are not revealed.
 - b. Barnabas spoke to the apostles on behalf of Saul.
 - c. Saul was accepted because of Barnabas’ influence; Acts 9:28 “And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.”

B. Every person has influence on others.

1. Rom. 14:7 “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”
2. 2 Cor. 3:2 “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men”
3. The real question is whether we use our influence for God or not.
 - a. 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
 - b. Mat. 5:13-16 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. ¹⁴Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

III. ENCOURAGER OF OTHERS.

A. Our first introduction to Barnabas.

1. Acts 4:36 “And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, the son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus,”
2. The word consolation means a comforter or exhorter (ASV translates it as “exhortation”).
3. This is the one trait God by Luke emphasized and that we remember concerning Barnabas.

B. Notice examples.

1. Saul (Paul).
 - a. When Saul goes to Jerusalem, he was rejected by the disciples; Acts 9:26 “And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.”
 - b. It was Barnabas who encouraged Saul; Acts 9:27 “But Barnabas took him, and brought *him* to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.”
 - c. What would have been the result if Barnabas had not encouraged Saul?
2. Mark.
 - a. On Paul and Barnabas’ first missionary tour John Mark went with them.
 - b. For some reason Mark left them; Acts 13:13 “Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.”

- c. When Paul wishes to return and visit the congregations, he did not want to take Mark with them; Acts 15:38 “But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.”
- d. It was Barnabas who came to Mark’s aid.
 - (1) Acts 15:37 “And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.”
 - (2) Acts 15:39 “And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;”
 - (3) Notice the result of Barnabas’ encouragement of Mark; 2 Tim. 4:11 “Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.”

C. We also need to encourage others.

1. We need to encourage elders in the work they must do.
2. We need to encourage preachers as they proclaim the message of salvation.
3. We need to encourage members who are falling away.
4. We need to encourage members when they are attacked by others.

IV. DEPENDABLE AS TO MISSION.

A. The move to Antioch.

1. The conversion of some in Antioch; Acts 11:19-21 “Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. ²⁰And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.”
2. The church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch for the furtherance of the cause of Christ there; Acts 11:22-24 “Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. ²³Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. ²⁴For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.”
3. The result of Barnabas’ work is that many people were added to the Lord; Acts 11:24 “For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.”

B. Barnabas and Paul’s missionary tour.

1. God recognized the work that Barnabas would do; Acts 13:2 “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”
2. Thus, Barnabas and Paul (Saul) were sent to do mission work; Acts 13:3 “And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.”
3. Acts 13 and Acts 14 record the history of this trip of preaching.
4. Notice two points concerning Barnabas.
 - a. He was not a quitter.
 - (1) They went through dangerous territory.

- (2) They were persecuted for the name of Christ.
 - (3) Acts 15:25-26 “It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - (4) Personality conflicts would not deter Barnabas in his mission work.
 - (a) A conflict arose over John Mark with Paul.
 - (b) Barnabas took Mark, separated from Paul and continued in his mission work.
 - (c) Acts 15:39 “And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;”
 - (d) He would not quit despite the personality conflict.
 - b. He was not jealous.
 - (1) There was a change in the order of priority.
 - (a) Starting out it was always Barnabas and Saul.
 - (b) This changed, with Paul being put in the forefront; Acts 13:13 “Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.”
 - (2) Barnabas did not care who got the credit, only that souls were saved.
- C. Barnabas’ second missionary tour.**
1. We are not given the details of this trip.
 2. We simply know of its existence; Acts 15:39 “And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;”
- D. We are given the commission to go to all the world.**
1. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 2. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
 3. Do we allow things to stop us from doing the Lord’s work?

Conclusion: The study of Barnabas is a profitable study. Let us try to emulate Barnabas in these areas for the furtherance of the cause of Christ.