

TBC SERMON NOTES & STUDY

September 11, 2022 – Dr. Jeff Abbett, Missions & Education Pastor

Audio file: www.timberlakebaptist.org – (Or on Facebook & YouTube)



Barnabas

Lessons in Encouragement

Sermon Text:

Acts 4:32-37 (NASB '95)

³² And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one *of them* claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. ³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales ³⁵ and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

³⁶ Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Sermon Outline:

- I. Why was Barnabas an Encourager? (Acts 4:32)**
 - **Five Biblical Benchmarks**
 - 1. Belief that disturbs**
 - 2. Belief that saves**
 - 3. Belief that emboldens**
 - 4. Belief that unites**
 - 5. Belief that frees from Earthly bondage**
- II. How was Barnabas an Encourager?**
 - 1. He encouraged generosity**
 - 2. He encouraged discipleship**
 - 3. He encouraged unity**
 - 4. He encouraged reconciliation**

Shepherding Group Discussion:

1. Considering the events of our day, why should Christians be encouraged?
2. What is the source of our encouragement?
3. Do the needs of others in the church spur you to action? Why or why not?
4. Why are financial needs sometimes the hardest to bring to the church?
5. Why is the world not encouraged by the gospel?
6. How does encouragement in the church lead to boldness in gospel proclamation?
7. How are personal preferences a hindrance to being an encourager?
8. Are you enslaved to the pursuit of material things? How would you know?
9. Who has claim to your resources? Explain.
10. What are some practical ways to encourage another believer this week?