

BARNABAS: WILLING TO SERVE

Acts 4:32-37

What influences a willing giver?

I. HIS CONGREGATION (32-35)

A. UNIFIED (32a)

- The believers were “of one heart and soul” (see John 13:35)

B. SELFLESS (32b)

- They understood being stewards and not owners (see Luke 9:23 and 14:33)

C. INSPIRED (33a)

- By powerful preaching (see Acts 4:10-12)

D. BLESSED (33b)

- Respected by people and favored by God (see Acts 2:44-47)

E. THOUGHTFUL (34-35)

1. A noble sensitivity: Committed to alleviating needs (See I John 3:17-18)
2. A sacrificial attitude: Selling assets
3. A voluntary participation: The owners were not coerced (See II Cor. 9:7)
4. An organized effort: Distributed by the apostles
5. A practical distribution: As any had need
6. A noticeable impact: There was not a needy person among them

F. NOTEWORTHY

- A community of givers will often encourage the commitment of other givers (see II Cor. 8:1-6)

II. HIS CHARACTER (36)

A. AN OUTSIDER ...

- A Levite from Cyprus now living in Jerusalem - See Acts 2:5

B. WHO WAS AN ENCOURAGER

1. Named Barnabas by the Apostles
2. Literally: One whose nature is to come alongside
 - One who wisely mixes consolation with exhortation

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III. HIS COMMITMENT (37)

- A. SYMPATHETIC: Personally moved by the plight of the needy
 - See the example of Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:25-30
- B. GENEROUS: Selling what he had
- C. COOPERATIVE: Doing what he could
 - Ready to give what he had (see II Cor. 8:12 and Mark 12:8)
- D. UNCONDITIONAL: Putting his gift at the Apostles' feet
 1. No strings attached
 2. Trusting others to use his gift wisely
- E. COMPLETE: He gave it all (See Mark 12:41-44)

CONCLUSION:

Barnabas' congregation and character contributed to his giving commitment

What identifies you?

- Are you good-hearted?
- Are you godly?
- Are you a giver?