

LESSON 9



BARNABAS, THE SON OF CONSOLATION

Scripture Texts: Acts 4:32-37; 9:20-27; 11:19-30; 13:1-4; 14:8-15; 15:22-39

In this lesson we study about a man who never grew tired of doing good, who kept his heart full of the Holy Ghost and faith. His goodness was the result of his godliness. By giving God the first place in his life, he learned the secret of personal goodness. This man's example of goodness is needed in the church today in at least three ways.

MEMORY VERSE: *"For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith"*

Acts 11:24

Barnabas Held a Good Attitude Towards Property

He recognized that what he had acquired through honest labor rightly belonged to God. So when a real need came, he sold property and distributed the money to the poor and needy of the Kingdom of God. His motive for action was found in the needs of others. Barnabas valued souls above property. Would not this example, if followed, revolutionize our practices of stewardship within the church today?

Barnabas Recognized the Value of the Other Fellow

When Paul, after his conversion, found it difficult to get the church at Jerusalem to fellowship him, Barnabas came to his defense and verified Paul's conversion to Christianity. He was a great help to Paul in his ministry to Tarsus and in the church at Antioch. Still later, he helped John Mark through some of his difficulties in getting started in the ministry. Wherever we find this man, we find him encouraging and helping someone forward in the grace of God. The Church of God needs such as Barnabas today. He was not only a good man, but he was good for something. A good man does not care who makes the points or who gets the credit. What makes a man good?

Barnabas Was a Man of Sympathy and Understanding

Barnabas served as a bridge between the Jewish-Christian community at Jerusalem and the Gentile world. He was the first delegate to be sent from the Jerusalem church to visit the Gentile church in Antioch. Barnabas worked to remove prejudice from between races and weld them together in one loving fellowship. These many good qualities add up to what: we commonly call "character." Only good men can do this kind of work; others need not apply for the job. Will you answer God's call to this kind of service?

Just a Thought

"Let's keep our mouths shut and our pens dry until we have the facts."