

ALL IN

The Church As Jesus Intended

Our Example

Acts 4:36-37

Weekly Takeaway:

ALL IN begins when God's mission becomes our mission.

Day 1

Sacrificial Giving as True Worship

Scripture: Acts 4:36

Insight

Luke introduces us to a key figure in the early Jerusalem church: "Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus." As a Levite, Joseph (who was nicknamed Barnabus) belonged to the tribe set apart for priestly service, yet his family line lived in the diaspora on the island of Cyprus. In Old Testament law, Levites were explicitly forbidden from inheriting land within Israel, as the Lord was designated as their inheritance. However, by the late Second Temple period, Levites were legally permitted to acquire private property outside Israel or through personal purchase. Luke singles out Barnabus' tribal identity and geographical background to emphasize his unique position: a man with direct ties to temple devotion, holding real estate assets outside the traditional covenant land.

Application

It is easy to hold onto our background, assets, and identity as safety nets rather than tools for God's kingdom. Joseph possessed both religious heritage and material wealth, yet he did not allow his personal assets to define his security or dictate his purpose. Being **ALL IN** requires us to examine the things we rely on for comfort and status - our heritage, savings, or standing - and submit them completely to Christ. True worship begins when we recognize that every resource and privilege we hold is intended to serve God's greater purpose.

Checkpoint

Give – Trusting God enough to live generously with what He's given you.

Barnabus' willingness to surrender his personal background and assets reflected an absolute trust in God rather than material security. Living out this Checkpoint means recognizing that everything we own belongs to God first and holding our possessions with open hands.

Prayer

Lord, help me anchor my trust and identity in You rather than in my personal security or material assets. Give me the faith to hold everything You have given me with open hands. Amen.

Day 2

The Power of Encouragement

Scripture: Acts 4:36

Insight

Although Joseph was his birth name, the apostles gave him a specific nickname: Barnabas, which Luke translates as "Son of Encouragement." In Jewish tradition, giving someone a new name signified a core character trait or a divine calling recognized by the spiritual community. The Hebrew root of "encouragement" (*paraklesis*) encompasses exhortation, comfort, and advocacy. By officially renaming Joseph, the apostles acknowledged that his daily interactions were so consistently marked by uplifting, strengthening, and advocating for others that his original name was replaced by his spiritual impact on the community.

Application

Words have the power to build up or tear down, and our character is often defined by how we treat those around us. Barnabas didn't earn his nickname through a single dramatic event, but through a pattern of living that brought strength and hope to others. We live in a world filled with criticism, division, and cynicism. As followers of Jesus, we are called to stand out by actively encouraging those who are weary, lonely, or struggling. Being **ALL IN** means making a conscious choice to bring life-giving grace and hope into every room we enter.

Checkpoint

Connect – Choosing authentic community over isolated faith.

Barnabas earned his nickname because he consistently chose to build up and advocate for others within the spiritual family. True connection requires us to step out of isolation and actively use our words and actions to strengthen the body of Christ.

Prayer

Father, make me an encourager in a world that is so often quick to criticize and tear down. Use my words and actions today to build up others and draw them closer to You. Amen.

Day 3

Surrendering Personal Assets

Scripture: Acts 4:37

Insight

Luke records that Barnabas "sold a field he owned." Real estate in the ancient Mediterranean world was the primary measure of wealth, financial stability, and family legacy. Owning land provided long-term security

and social status that few other assets could offer. For Barnabas, selling this property was not a passive donation of excess pocket money; it was a deliberate, costly liquidation of a primary capital asset. He voluntarily surrendered a permanent source of financial security and future equity, converting it into immediate liquid funds to address the pressing needs of others within the Jerusalem church.

Application

Generosity often becomes comfortable when we only give from our excess - what we won't miss or what doesn't alter our lifestyle. But Barnabas demonstrated a sacrificial generosity that directly impacted his financial safety net. Being **ALL IN** challenges us to evaluate whether our giving costs us anything. Are we willing to sacrifice our comfort, scale back our lifestyle, or leverage our assets so that others can experience God's provision? True generosity reflects a heart that values kingdom impact far more than personal luxury or financial preservation.

Checkpoint

Serve – Choosing compassionate action over personal convenience.

Barnabas placed the tangible needs of others above his own financial comfort by parting with a valuable field. Choosing compassionate action means intentionally sacrificing our personal convenience and resources to care for those in need.

Prayer

Lord, free my heart from the love of comfort and material security. Grant me the courage to give sacrificially so that Your love and provision can be made real to others. Amen.

Day 4

Humility in Submission

Scripture: Acts 4:37

Insight

After selling his field, Barnabas "brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet." The act of laying money "at the feet" of authority was a recognized ancient gesture of complete surrender, transfer of ownership, and submission to leadership. Barnabas did not demand a vote on how his gift would be spent, nor did he attach conditions, demand personal accolades, or retain administrative control over the funds. By physically placing the proceeds at the apostles' feet, he submitted his generosity entirely to the oversight and wisdom of the church leadership, ensuring the money was distributed according to collective need rather than personal preference.

Application

It is human nature to want control over how our contributions are used and recognized. We often attach conditions to our service, our time, or our giving, wanting a say in the final outcome or seeking credit for our participation. However, Barnabas models radical humility by releasing both ownership and control. Being **ALL IN** means surrendering our ego and trusting God's body, the church. When we give or serve without demanding recognition or control, we display true servant-hearted humility that honors Christ above ourselves.

Checkpoint

Gather – Centering your life around God’s presence and His people.

Barnabas submitted his gift directly to the spiritual leadership and unity of the gathered church rather than pursuing personal control. Centering our lives on God’s presence means aligning our heart and resources with the unity and authority of the church community.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, strip away my desire for control, recognition, and applause. Help me serve and give with pure humility, trusting Your church leadership and seeking only Your glory. Amen.

Day 5

Setting a Standard for Grace

Scripture: Acts 4:36–37

Insight

When viewed together, verses 36 and 37 serve as Luke’s structural climax for the summary of the early church’s radical fellowship in Acts 4:32–35. Luke uses Barnabas as a positive, concrete case study of what it looks like when the Gospel fully transforms a believer's heart, social status, and bank account. His public action set a high standard of genuine, unforced love within the Jerusalem congregation.

Application

Our choices leave a lasting imprint on the culture of our church family. When one person lives with radical obedience, humility, and generosity, it inspires others to step out in faith as well. Barnabas chose to live authentically, paving the way for grace and generosity to flourish in the early church. Being **ALL IN** means recognizing that your spiritual walk is never just about you; your obedience can pave the way for others to encounter Jesus. How you live, give, serve, and love can become an inviting lighthouse of God's grace to a watching world.

Checkpoint

Invite – Leading others toward the hope and grace of Jesus.

Barnabas’s authentic life and unreserved sacrifice set a powerful example that inspired and invited others into a deeper experience of God's grace. Living out this checkpoint means letting our visible obedience and grace-filled lives point others directly toward Jesus.

Prayer

God, let my life be a sincere testimony of Your transforming grace. Use my obedience, generosity, and love to inspire others and lead them closer to You. Amen.