

SERMON REFLECTIONS

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1. Read verses 24–28. When in times of crisis, why is it vital to focus on the sovereignty of God? How does knowing God’s Word and understanding theology help with handling hardships?

2. How do you prioritize intercessory prayer in your prayer life? How often do you pray that believers in your life would be bold to proclaim the Gospel?

3. What are the challenges we face as a church when it comes to attaining unity? How can you contribute to cultivating a unified church?

4. Barnabas was a man of both encouragement and generosity. Do you have anyone in your life who helps you in your walk in a similar way Barnabas was to the early church? Are you encouraging and generous to others? How?

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5. Do you agree that you are who your friends are? Why?

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6. How significant are our horizontal relationships in our spiritual walk? How do fellowship and serving others contribute to our spiritual growth?

ACTS 4:23-37

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed’—

²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.