

The Barnabas *Effect*

Acts 4



THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

The Barnabas *Effect*

Can One Person
Make a Difference?

The Story

Acts 3

- Healing of the lame man at Beautiful Gate
 - “silver & gold I do not have...”
- Man is instantly healed...walking, leaping and praising God
- Peter & John are arrested

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23 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

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25 "who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things?

26 The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ.

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27 "For truly against Your Holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together

28 "to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

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29 "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

30 "by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

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31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

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33 And with great power the Apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,

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35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the Apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus

37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the Apostles' feet. (NKJV)

Their Prayer Request

- Asked for boldness & strength
- Asked God to bring His healing power and do signs & wonders

(notice it was not – LORD, get us away from here)

How did God answer?

God's 2-Part Answer

1) God **shook the house,**
filled them all with the Spirit
and they went back to
proclaiming the Gospel of
Jesus Christ.

God's 2-Part Answer

2) Barnabas

- This man was a gift from God.
- Served the Body and let the Spirit flow through him.

Miracles propel us forward.
Godly relationships help sustain us.
We must have both!

Consider this...

**Somebody you know asked God for
courage & strength today.**

**Could you be part of the
answer to their prayer?**

Your Generosity Matters

Acts 4:37

“having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the Apostles' feet.”

- His sacrificial giving was a big help.
- Barnabas stands in contrast to Ananias & Saphira in Acts 5.

Your Generosity Matters

- Generosity is different from obedience.
 - Obedience is what is required.
 - Generosity is what we choose to give beyond.

Example

- The Tithe (10%) & Free-will Offerings
- To love is obedience & to go out of your way to bless is generosity.

Your Generosity Matters

- Generosity is a lifestyle of love and partnership.

Givers vs. Takers

- Truth: “**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**”
- **Choose to be a Generous with your money, your words, your resources, etc**

Your Generosity Matters

- I wonder who is in the Kingdom because of Barnabas' generosity?
- I wonder who is in the Kingdom because of your generosity?

Your generosity, when done for the honor of Jesus, has a big impact that reaches all the way to eternity.

Your Investment in People Matters

Acts 9:27

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the Apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

- Took Paul under his wing, saw something in this man that no one else did.

Acts 11:25-26a

25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul (Paul).

26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

- **Also, Barnabas spent a good part of his life traveling with Paul to invest into the Churches scattered abroad.**

Your Investment in People Matters

- Thought: **If there was no Barnabas, there might not be an Apostle Paul.**
 - This week, when you read the letters Paul wrote in the New Testament, be grateful Barnabas did what he did.
- Your investment in people's lives has a big impact that reaches all the way to eternity.
 - Do you have people you are investing in for Jesus' sake?

Your Investment in People Matters

- **Your investment in people's lives has a big impact that reaches all the way to eternity.**
- **Do you have people you are investing in for Jesus' sake?**

Your Christ-like Living Matters

Acts 11:24

For he was a good man,
full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.

And a great many people
were added to the Lord.

- We need more believers like this.

Your Christ-like Living Matters

- Your Christ-like living has a big impact that reaches all the way to eternity.
 - As they say, you might be the only Bible somebody reads.
 - Love well, live well, do good, be full of the Holy Spirit, live full of faith.

Your Compassion Matters

- **Story in Acts 15:36-39**
 - Broke company with Paul over John Mark
 - Barnabas stuck by John Mark (a.k.a. Mark).
 - Mark was restored, later helped Peter & Paul.
- **Barnabas Restored a fellow believer in Christ who had become weary.**
- **Thought: Without Barnabas, there might not be a Gospel of Mark.**

Your Compassion Matters

- Your compassion and ministry to help strengthen and restore another person has a big impact that reaches all the way to eternity.

Barnabas

Effect

- This is the one thing Barnabas was best known for....
- Given name: Joses or Joseph
- The Apostles' nicknamed him Barnabas
= Son of Encouragement
Literally = son of paraklesis (like Holy Spirit)

This guy was a great big bundle of life, joy and goodness!

Encouragement

- There is a real need in the Church for encouragement.
- **We all face the onslaught of our adversary and the world, bashing our faith, ridiculing Jesus.**
 - **Forces are active to Dis-courage you.**

**Where can go for encouragement?
...to have courage infused into us?**

Question

Are you a...

Fire-lighter

or a

Fire-fighter

- Are people better or worse after they have been with you?
- Are you an encourager or a discourager?
- Do you inspire faith or kill faith in others?

Your Encouragement Matters

- Your encouragement has a big impact that reaches all the way to eternity.
- Have you en-couraged someone today?
- Heaven is bigger bc of Barnabas' encouragement.
- Who are you pouring life & courage into?

Can one person
make a
difference?

The Barnabas Effect

- Your Generosity Matters
- Your Investment in People Matters
- Your Christ-like Living Matters
- Your Compassion Matters
- Your Encouragement Matters

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Numbers 6:24-26

24 "The LORD bless you and keep you;
25 The LORD make His face shine upon
you, and be gracious to you;
26 The LORD lift up His countenance
upon you, and give you peace."