



# BARNABAS

Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 15:36-40

# Difficult times

- Processing the incarnation, life, death, resurrection & ascension of Jesus
- The church is born
- Thousands of people coming to faith
- Christians being persecuted and martyred

# Barnabas: This is your life!

- ❑ Born: in Cyprus; a Levite
- ❑ Actual name: Joseph (Acts 4:36)
- ❑ Right values:
  - + Towards others: nickname – Barnabas (*son of encouragement*)
  - + To material possessions (4:36-37)
- ❑ Reputation: “Good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (Acts 11:24)
- ❑ Died a martyr (stoned?)

# **“Son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36)**

- ❖ Definition: *to fill with courage or strength; give support, confidence or hope to someone*
- ❖ Son of “*paraklesis*” (Greek) see *John 14:16*

## **A. Barnabas: *encouraging Saul/Paul***

- Saul enemy #1 to Christians, came to faith
- Rejected by the Jerusalem disciples (Acts 9:26)
- Barnabas to the rescue! (Acts 9:27)
- Saul/Paul – missionary, author

## **B. Barnabas: *encouraging John Mark***

- # Cousin to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10)
- # On missionary journey but deserts (Acts 12:25; 13:5,13)
- # A second chance? (Acts 15:37)
- # Barnabas to the rescue! (Acts 15:37-40)
- # Paul & John Mark later reconciled (Phil 1:24 & 2 Tim 4:11)
- # John Mark – possibly the author of Mark's Gospel

# Courage in difficult times

## Lessons from Barnabas:

1. Humility – *happy for the focus to be on others*
2. Generosity – *concern for others beyond self*
3. Proclaim – *spoke about God's Kingdom*
4. Risks – *in ministry and with people*
5. Second chance – *gave others a 2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity*
6. God dependent – *in direction & prayer*

# Homework on encouragement:

- ☑ Identify 3-5 people in your network – family, friend, neighbour, colleague etc)
- ☑ Be a “Barnabas” and encourage each one this week – speak, phone, letter, text, email etc...
- ☑ It’s not just a good idea, it’s how God wants us to live – always!

