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Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

Everybody Needs a Barnabus by Tom Kelton

Saul (Paul) and John Mark were well-known in the early church. But they might not have made it very far without the lesser known personality, Barnabas. Barnabas is known for encouraging people. This was his key contribution to the growth of the church.

After Paul's conversion, Christians were afraid to accept him because of he had persecuted Christians. Barnabas stepped out and took the risk to stand beside Paul and encourage him. As a result, Paul was eventually accepted by the church and become a great missionary, writing more than one-third of the New Testament.

Similarly, John Mark needed an encourager. He had been a failure. He began a missionary journey and, for some reason, turned back. His failure was so bad that Paul refused to give him a second trip. But Barnabas, the encourager, stepped in once again. He took John Mark and spent the necessary time to help him re-establish his life.

And it worked. Years later, while Paul was in prison, he wrote to Timothy and requested that he bring John Mark because he was profitable for the ministry. Who knows what might have happened to John Mark if it had not been for Barnabas.

Every person needs a Barnabas – someone who will encourage them to achieve their fullest potential. You can fulfill a vital ministry by being an encourager to others around you. People respond to encouragement because it gives them hope.

If Saul and Mark had been left alone, they might have completely given up. But, the presence of one person, Barnabas the encourager, gave them the sense that all was not lost. It gave them hope to persevere and keep on keeping on. Encouragement is powerful!

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Romans 15:5, "May the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus."