



May 8-14, 2016
Texts: Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-30
SPRING 2016 SERIES:
The Christian and Spiritual Gifts

SUMMARY OF SERMON: Barnabas was a classic exhorter. In fact his real name was Joseph but because of his ability to build people up in the faith and encourage them he was given the name Barnabas, meaning “Son of Encouragement.” He appears first in Acts 4:36-37 but is a regular throughout the book of Acts where in one form or another he is helping people and churches grow in their faith in Christ.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week highlight some exhorters and exhorter characteristics.]

Monday, May 9 – **Acts 11:19-30** [This passage is an outstanding example of Barnabas as an exhorter and encourager. This was a pivotal time in the development of the church. The Church at Antioch is where the name “Christian” was first used. Also, where the missionary movement started with Paul and Barnabas.]

Tuesday, May 10 – **John 4:1-26** [Jesus’ interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well is a great example of His exhortation gifting. He is able to draw her into a meaningful dialogue on spirituality that leads to her conversion as well as many in her village.]

Wednesday, May 11 – **Psalms 96** [No matter what a Christian’s gifting this psalm is uplifting but it might have special value to an exhorter since it emphasizes boldly and publicly speaking, proclaiming, and singing the glories of our God.]

Thursday, May 12 – **Acts 15:36-41** [Even in this situation where Paul and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement about whether or not to take Mark with them on their second missionary journey, we see Barnabas being the encourager to Mark, giving him a second chance. Eventually, Paul and Mark were reconciled (e.g. Col. 4:10).]

Friday, May 13 - **John 3:1-15** [Jesus’ interaction with Nicodemus, the Pharisee, is another good example of an exhorter. The Pharisees by and large opposed Jesus. Yet, sensing a softer heart in Nicodemus, Jesus encourages him and challenges him to faith. John 19:38-39 would imply Nicodemus became a follower of Jesus.]

Saturday, May 14 – **Exodus 4:10-17** [Moses was an effective leader but apparently not an exhorter. He wasn’t confident of his speaking ability. That was lacking trust in God but God still gave Aaron, an exhorter who was fluent in speech, to help and encourage his brother, Moses.]



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