

Rubbing People the Right Way



Acts 4:36

Extra Grace Required

Ever Met Someone that Rubbed You the Wrong Way?

They May Not...

- Mean to
- Try to
- Realize it

...But Still They DO!

Then There Are Those Who Rub Folks the Right Way

These Are People Who Give Encouragement

- One Such Person was Joseph
- Maybe Called “*Good Ole Joe*”
- Disciples Gave His a New Name

“*Barnabas – Son Of Encouragement*”

From the Life and Ministry of Barnabas We Learn...

...How to Rub People the Right Way

encourage

invite

revere

back



Determine to Be an Encourager- Acts 4:36-37

**Joseph/Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus
Barnabas...**

- **Godly Background**
- **Sought to Please God**
- **Determined to Make a Difference**

By His Sacrificial Giving Barnabas

- **Encouraged the Early Church**
- **Made a Difference**
- **God Used Him Greatly**

Discouragement

Discourage= *“to dishearten, to depress the spirits of, to lack confidence; that which destroys or abates courage.”*

Common Causes of Discouragement: *Personal Failure, Cont. Battle, Cont. Unanswered Prayer, Emotional Strain, Physical Illness...*

...Not Understanding That All Things Work Together for Good

**Discouragement Comes Before God is Going to Do Something Great
It is Dangerous to Be Discouraged...**

- **You May Make Wrong Decisions**
- **Say Things You Don't Mean**
- **Do Things You Will Later Regret**
- **Discouragement Is Costly**

OVERLOAD!

“God never uses a discouraged Christian.

...He must change him first and then use him.”

...Billy Graham



Encouragement

Encouragement is Different from Teaching or Correction

- It Is Not Aimed at Educating
- It Is Aimed at Strengthening

Hebrew= *“To Fasten Oneself So As to Strengthen, Cure, Help, Repair and Fortify”*

**An Encourager Fastens Himself or Herself to Another Person...
...Providing Support and Strength For the Other**

This Is a Worthy Ministry that Every Person Can Do

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

How Can You Be An Encourager?

Encouragers Must Be Encouraged In God Personally

- They Must Have a Strong Heart and Spirit
- Enough Energy in Their Own Battery to Jump Another's
- Must Receive from God So that They Can Pour It Out

Encouragers Must Look for Opportunities to Encourage

- Not Self-Centered or Always Concerned about Themselves

Encouragers Must Take Time Out For Others

- Must Come Alongside the Person and Get On Their Level

Encouragers Must Use Words of Faith to Build Up Others

- Words of Approval, Love, Acceptance, Praise
- The Power of Words Can Never Be Underestimated
- Let It Be Words of Life/ Encouragement!

Look for the Best in Others- Acts 9:26-27

Saul (Paul) Was Fully Committed to Destroying the Early Church

- Supervised Stephen's Stoning
- On Way to Damascus to Find/ Arrest Christians
- Jesus Confronted Him/ was Transformed
- Preached In Synagogues, Jesus Had Risen

Paul's Life was Threatened so He Traveled to Jerusalem

- Disciples Would Not Accept Paul as a True Believer
- Barnabas Convinced Them Paul Could Be Trusted
- An Encourager Is One Who Champions the Underdog
- Like Barnabas Encouragers Don't Look to the Past...
...But to the Future

Look for the Best in Others -Acts 9:26-27

Barnabas Didn't Look at What Paul Had Done...

...He Looked at What Paul Could Do

- **Some People Seem to Look for the Worst in People**
- **Often How a Person Sees Others is a Reflection of Self**

If I Am a...

...Trusting Person

...Critical Person

...Caring Person

I Will See Others as...

...Trustworthy

...Critical

...Compassionate

Some People Have the Habit of Rubbing People the Wrong Way

"Some people have a chip on shoulder...

...some the whole lumberyard"

Try Looking at Others Perspective- Acts 15:36-40



TRY TO SEE
THINGS FROM MY
POINT OF VIEW.

Barnabas Believed In Giving People A Second Chance

- He had the Gifts of Grace / Mercy
- He Wanted To Do All He Could To Help Out His Cousin, John Mark (Colossians 4:10)
- Paul Believed John Mark Wimped Out -When Going Got Tough
- He Was Opposed To Having John Mark Rejoin Missionary Team.
- Barnabas Saw Something In Mark that Paul Didn't See

Try Looking at Others Perspective- Acts 15:36-40

Later John Mark Worked w- Peter/ Recorded Gospel of Mark

- Later in Life Paul Also Saw the Value of John Mark:
“Get Mark/ bring him w- you, he is helpful...in my ministry.” -2 Tim 2:11

Christian Workers May Not Always See Eye To Eye...

...that Shouldn't Keep Them From

...Continuing to Go Forward in the Lord

Try Looking at Others Perspective- Acts 15:36-40

Barnabas Felt So Strongly About Young John Mark...

...He Was Willing to Overlook Mark's Youthful Mistake

...And Give Him Another Chance

Aren't You Glad You Have a Savior Who Never Gives Up On You?

Regardless of the Times You Fail...

...Jesus is There Willing to Give You Another Chance

We All Need A Barnabas In Our Lives To Love Us


...And Encourage Us

...For Who We Are And Not For What We Do

Encourager Survival Kit

1. Toothpick
2. Rubber Band
3. Band Aid
4. Pencil
5. Eraser
6. Chewing Gum
7. Mint
8. Candy Kiss
9. Tea Bag





NEVER
look down
on someone
unless you're
Helping
them
up

If You Want to Rub People the Right Way

- **Determine to Be an Encourager**
- **Be Interested in Others**
- **Believe in Their Potential**
- **Try to See Things from Their Perspective**