

Barnabus' Lesson

Week of Feb. 24 - Mar. 1, 2020

Introduction

Barnabus, was one of the prominent disciples in the early church. Both he and the Apostle Paul were commissioned to reach out to Gentile lands with the message of Jesus and his resurrection.

In today's lesson, we travel to Antioch, where there is history in the making – the first time the word Christian is used to name the Church. It was a ragtag group of unlikely companions bound together by the love of Jesus.

Lesson Acts 11:19-30

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with

the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Questions

1. What does it mean to you to be a Christian?
2. How do you think it felt being one of the first Christians in Antioch?
3. If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence against you?
4. Have you noticed the fingerprints of God's grace in your life? In others?
5. How can you encourage someone else to remain true to the Lord?
6. How was Barnabas a good man?
7. Antioch became a "sending church" – sending faithful servants out to spread the word of Christ. How can we at PLC be more of a sending church?

Prayer

God, thank you for your relentless love, your pursuit of humanity throughout history and your desire to use us to bring other people to you. Open our eyes for us so that as we walk in the world, we can unleash the great gift of you for all others to share. Amen.