



**BE A BARNABAS**  
**Acts 9:26-27**

# 2017 Congregational Theme

- **Great follow up from 2016 theme!**
- **Personal illustration**
- **I was encouraged**
- **two signs of encouragement**



# Introduction

- **Let us make a congregational commitment for this year...**
- **Encouragement takes intentional commitment**
- **Barnabas our biblical model for Christian living**
- **Jesus our ultimate model**



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# Introduction

- **Areas of life that dictate we need encouragement (because of depression, despair, loss, and failure)**
- **Barnabas as secondary figure**
- **33 times in the New Testament!**
- **First reference and episode in Acts**



# The Believers Share Their Possessions

## Acts 4:32-37

- **32** All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. **33** With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.



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- **And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all<sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales...**



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- **35** ...and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.
- **36** Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), **37** sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

# Knows How to Share

- “No one claimed”
- Earliest days of the church
- Tuscaloosa man in tornado
- Gatlinburg area fires
- Possessions not our own...hard to come to this place
- Biblical view of comprehensive stewardship



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# God powerfully at work in us!



- God's grace powerfully at work
- Conduits of divine grace
- "In us" to go forward "out of us!"
- Hawthorne's theory!
- Twice in Acts—God as "heart-knower"

# The bond of unity

- “One in heart and mind”
- First in Acts 2:42-47—all things in common
- Philippians 4—Mind of Christ
- Ropes course—you can!
- Like glue holding wood together
- The properties of encouragement enable this!



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# Sees the Need

- “Many had need”
- Early evangelization
- “Barnabas” (Son of Encouragement) was Joseph’s nickname!
- Barnabas saw the need and responded
- Significant theme in Acts...Christians responding to needs...Acts 11:27-30



# Sacrifices to Help



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# Fill the Need

- “From time to time...they sold land or houses”
- As the occasion arose, they met it
- History of Highland View Church
- Freewill...notice no details!
- Emphasis on each person’s decision to sacrifice
- Barnabas sold his land

# Lets Go of



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## Expectations

- **Twice—“put it at the apostles’ feet”**
- **Distributed to those who had need**
- **He did not earmark or demand**
- **He trusted the apostles**
- **We do the same thing today in our giving!**
- **No fanfare, no front page coverage, just caring response with a trusting heart**

# Conclusion

- Encouragement is the bond of unity
- Encouragement knows how to share
- Encouragement is proof of God powerfully at work in us!
- Encouragement sees the need



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# Conclusion

- Encouragement sacrifices to help fill the need
- Encouragement lets go of expectations
- Exhortation for today: “Let us together commit to encouraging one person this week!”



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