



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

**2017 Congregational Theme**

# Encouraged by a Ministry of Hospitality: Standing with Outsiders & Outcasts

**Acts 9:26, 27**



# Introduction

- Congregational expressions of hospitality
- A hospitable heart is the glue
- core of evangelization!
- Barnabas' example of caring enough about Saul
- *The Habitat of Hospitality*
- My own mentors in a life of hospitality

Hospitality



# **Changing from Strangers to Guest**

- **Barnabas takes charge & becomes Saul's advocate**
- **Apostles know and respect Barnabas**
- **"God-fearers" in Acts-- applied to diverse people**
- **How can we help visitors & strangers in our lives in all contexts move toward being a guest?**

# Hospitable & Encouraging to the hurting

- Emotional hurts

*Hospitality*

- Spiritual hurts



- Assumptions about the hurting

# Hospitable & Encouraging to the Poor

*Hospitality*



- Barnabas first hits the scene as a genuine giver who cares about “the less fortunate”
- Early life of the church—attending to needs as part of the gospel-life!
- Luke’s emphasis in Luke-Acts correspondence is about the poor and outcasts
- Illustration of Zacchaeus in Luke 19

# Hospitable & Encouraging to new converts

- Saul being let down in a basket while in Damascus
- Conversion of Lydia– “come to my house and stay” **Acts 16:11-15**
- Philippian jailor
- Priscilla & Aquilla regarding Appollos



# Personal barriers to overcome

- **Apathy-- Willingness to listen to others' stories**
- **Judging others harshly for their predicaments in life—as an excuse for me not to get involved**
- **Exclusiveness replaced by inclusiveness**

*Hospitality*





# Personal barriers to overcome

- Personal comfort replaced by commitment to caring
- Inactive members “loved” back into fellowship
- Initiate contact and interaction with visitor and stranger...intentional in making them a guest!

*Hospitality*



# Conclusion

- How can I be more hospitable and encouraging this week?

*Hospitality*



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