

Playing Second Fiddle





The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who can play the second fiddle with enthusiasm — that's a problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony.

(Leonard Bernstein)

izquotes.com

Subtle change in order

- **V. 1 Barnabas....Saul (at the end of the list!)**
- **V. 2 Barnabas and Saul**
- **V. 7 Barnabas and Saul**
- **V. 9 Saul, who is also called Paul**
- **V. 13 Paul and his companions!**
- **V. 16 Paul stood up (v. 5)**
- **Vv. 43, 46, 50 Paul & Barnabas**



Prophets and Teachers

- Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
- Prophets—discernment, predictive, faithful
- Acts 3:24 Ancient prophetic role (10:43)
- 11:27-30 1st mention of church prophets (no names!)
- 15:32—prophets encouraged & strengthened



Teachers

- **31 times in 4 Gospels—Jesus addressed as “Teacher!”**
- **Instruction and grounding**
- **Anticipate questions**
- **Historical background to the faith**
- **Mature in their faith**
- **1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11—Paul identifies himself (functioned with Timothy)**



Called to a Specific Work

- While worshiping (priestly service OT) and fasting
- Spirit said, "Indeed, set apart ...I have called them"
- Work—not manual, spiritual
- Prayed, laid hands on them
- Sent them off



Any Word of Encouragement

- **Rooted in God's history with His people, (vv. 16-25).**
- **God raised Jesus from the dead**
- **Concluding invitation...beware!**
- **Quotes Habakkuk 1:5 and quits!**
- **Encouragement as urging to wake up!**



Filled with Joy & Holy Spirit

- Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city
- Expelled them (Paul & Barnabas together)
- Barnabas did not blame Paul for their predicament!
- Suffered and rejoiced together!



Joy Together

- **So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**



Conclusion

**Barnabas demonstrates how to
play second fiddle**

- 1. Subtle change in order**
- 2. Prophets and teachers**
- 3. Called to a specific work**
- 4. Word of encouragement**
- 5. Joy and Holy Spirit**

