

# The Ministry of Encouragement

**Congregational theme**



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

# Introduction



- **Getting at the heart of ministry**
- **Paracletis—glue that holds congregation together, the “one another” glue!**
- **Becoming Barnabas—a process of learning, both giver and receiver**
- **Great example this past week**

# Encouragement as Shared Service



- **The art of leading and supporting others**
- **Moves minister/pastor & elders out of top-down leadership roles**
- **Church's power for ministry is unlimited!**

# Encouragement as Shared Service



- **Two uneducated fishermen from Galilee healed a lame man and faced down the leaders of the temple with “holy boldness” (Acts 3:13—and story context)**
- **Example in our own congregation: Food pantry, clothing closet, Love Bears, maintenance & cleaning, Pain Bank, etc.**

# Encouragement as Shared Service



- **“In too many congregations today, we talk about the limitations and blocks to ministry and allow our ministry to be defined—and therefore limited—by the difficulties that face it.”**

# Encouragement as Shared Service



- **“The ministry we do together, the more power we receive; the more faithful we are in discipleship, the more ministry opportunities God creates for us, and the more we accept the Spirit’s guidance, the less any one person or clique will be or will want to be in control!” (Moots, p. 6).**

# Qualities of an Encouraging Servant-Leader

- *Models and encourages growth!*
- *Includes others left on sideline*
- *Exhibits the quality of humility*
- *Dealing creatively with conflict*
- *Acceptance of vulnerability*
- *Trustworthy integrity*



# Why Barnabas?

- **Already his example in Acts 4 with selling his land, and now taking John Mark!**





# Conclusion

## Ministry of Encouragement is

- Shared Service
- Qualities of encouraging servant-leader



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