



97. The Example of Barnabas

“Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.” Acts 4:36-37

Barnabas was a foreigner in Judea. He was from Cyprus. He was a good man. He introduced Paul to the other Apostles. Later, the church in Jerusalem, *“Sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord,”* Acts 11:22-24.

Barnabas retrieved Paul from Tarsus and with Paul carried the relief collection to the church in Judea. Barnabas became an effective Bible teacher in Antioch. He accompanied Paul on the first missionary journey. And he took John Mark on a missionary journey to Cyprus. Some believe that Barnabas was the author of the book of Hebrews.

The first mention of Barnabas in the Bible is in Acts 4 telling that he sold his land and gave the money to God. The Biblical record of his ministry starts with his giving. Look at where a man keeps his treasure and you will see where he keeps his heart. Barnabas didn't keep his treasure in a land investment ... he gave it to God. Jesus said, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,*" Luke 12:34. Where is your treasure? And where is your heart? Both of those questions have the same answer. What is *your* answer?