

BARNABAS: ENCOURAGER PAR EXCELLENCE

ACTS 9:26-30

An Eastern Orthodox Icon
of the Apostle Barnabas

Acts 9:26-30 (TNIV)

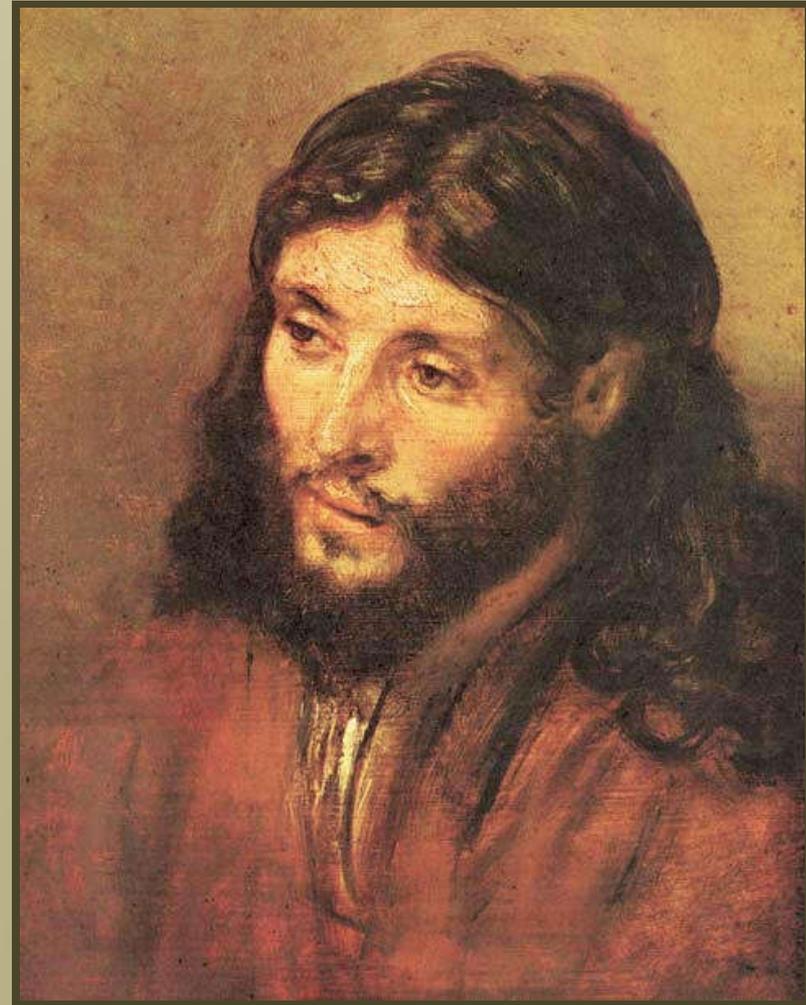
26 When (Saul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 **But Barnabas** took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

BARNABAS

- Here's a person who touched the world. He played a large role in the spread of the Gospel — by supporting others!
- No self-promotion and image enhancement, Barnabas let others stand on his shoulders.
- If a group of believers gave you a nickname, what would it be?
- The apostles nick-named Joseph of Cyprus 'Mr. Encourager' — Barnabas. *Let's see why.*

COMMITMENT:

Lord Jesus, use me as a conduit of your love and encouragement. May others find me to be loyal, supportive, humble, generous and faithful. Help me to see the best in others, speak well of others and love them as a true friend. I want to be a Barnabas!





Worship



Announcements

He Was a Model of Generosity When the Church First Began

- Sold personal property and gave it to the Apostle for the care of the needy. Acts 4:36-37
- Set a high standard for compassion.





SURRAT.



BOOTH.



HAROLD.

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865,

 **\$100,000 REWARD!**

THE MURDERER

Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln,
IS STILL AT LARGE.

\$50,000 REWARD

Will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives.

\$25,000 REWARD

Will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. SURRATT, one of Booth's Accomplices.

\$25,000 REWARD

Will be paid for the apprehension of David C. Harold, another of Booth's accomplices.

LIBERAL REWARDS will be paid for any information that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above-named criminals, or their accomplices.

All persons harboring or concealing the said persons, or either of them, or aiding or assisting their concealment or escape, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a Military Commission and the punishment of DEATH.

Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

All good citizens are exhorted to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and rest neither night nor day until it be accomplished.

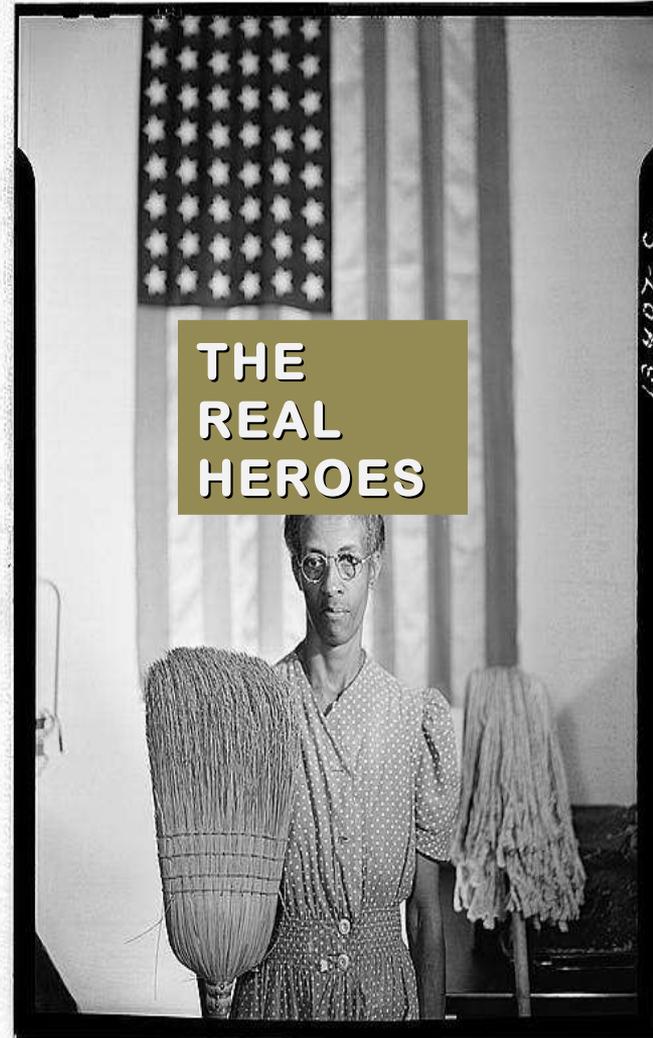
EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

When the Terrorist, Saul,
Became a Believer, the
Church in Jerusalem was
Afraid to Just Throw the
Door Open.

Acts 9:26-30

Barnabas to the rescue!

- As a respected leader he put his reputation on the line for Paul.
- He said Paul had seen Jesus on the Damascus Road
- He believed that Paul had heard the voice of God.
- He verified that this converted enemy of the church was now a fearless preacher.



Word Reaches Jerusalem that there are Gentiles Christians in Antioch!

Luke 11:19-24

- Barnabas is sent to check this out.
- His happy observation: He saw evidence of the grace of God.
- He encouraged these new believers to stay true to the Lord.
- Luke's side note: "Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and fait, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord through him."

He Recruited Paul to Co-Pastor the Church at Antioch

- Believers had sent Paul to Tarsus so he wouldn't be killed by his enemies.
- Now it is time for Paul to work in Antioch...Barnabas is the guy who goes to Tarsus to find him.
- They co-labor for two years





Communion: Serving Others

**At the Last Supper
Jesus served the
disciples by washing
their feet.**

**Barnabas followed
this Christ-like
manner.**



The Good Confession

**I believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the Living God.**

**I have decided to follow Jesus as
my Lord and Savior.**

Offering: Bring in the First Fruits



When it Was Time for the Gospel to be Preached to Distant Land, Barnabas was in the Thick of it

- The church in Antioch fasted and laid hands on Paul and Barnabas
- Much of the remainder of Acts is the story of these two teaming up. Paul standing on the shoulders of Mr. Optimist, Mr. Generosity, Mr. Faith, Mr. Encourager, Mr. Put-your-life-on-the-line — Barnabas!



On a mission trip Paul refused to work with young John Mark who had disappointed him during a previous tour. Barnabas wanted to give the rookie another try!

- The disagreement with Paul was strong enough for them to take separate paths for a while. And, Paul recruited Silas.
- Barnabas took John Mark (the author of the *Mark*) with him.
- Once again, Barnabas put himself on the line for one whom others would call a failure.
- Later Paul would see the value of this young guy who just needed more experience and somebody to believe in him.

Do People Like Barnabas Still Exist? Better Yet: Will I Be a Barnabas?

- Digging Deep when others need my resources
- Thinking the best of others
- Putting others ahead of myself
- Giving others many 'second chances'
- Willing to stand aside to let others shine
- Seeking the Kingdom's good rather than my own benefit
- A faithful friend and brother/sister





**Once Again, What Nickname
Would Others Give You?**

**Paul and
Barnabas
in Lystra**

*Artist:
Adriaen van
Stalbemt,
1580–1662.*

A black and white photograph showing a group of children and adults in a camp. The children are holding hands in a circle, suggesting a prayer or song. A woman in a white dress stands in the center of the circle. The background shows a long, simple building and hills in the distance. The text 'Prayer Requests' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

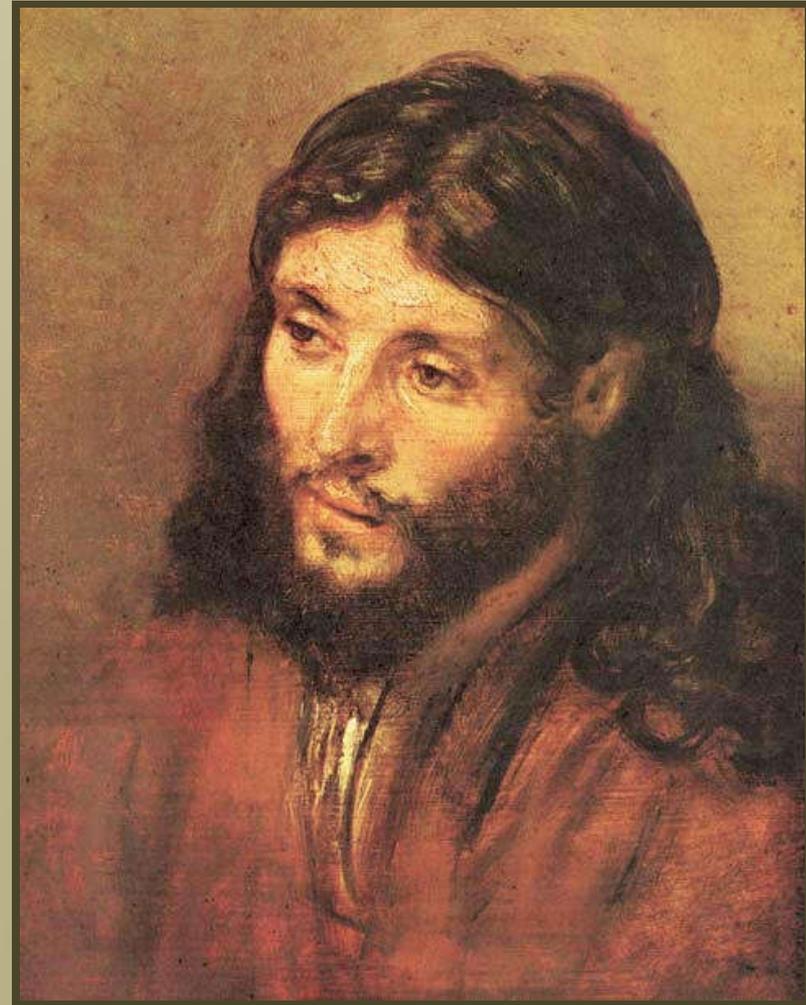
Prayer Requests



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Go and Encourage

