



## HEROES OF THE FAITH "Barnabas" Acts 11:19-30

No. 3806

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William Barclay, the great Scottish Bible commentator, described Barnabas as "the man with the biggest heart in the church." The assessment of this key man in the history of the church is well-founded. We do well to study his life and follow his lead.

### **I. His Character. v. 24**

- A. He was a "good man."
  - 1. Not perfect, but good. See Mark 10:18; Romans 3:12
  - 2. Morally and ethically upright.
- B. He was "full of the Holy Spirit and faith."
  - 1. His life demonstrated the "fruit" and "gifts" of the Spirit.
  - 2. His lifestyle was based on behavior compatible with his beliefs.

### **II. Reputation. Acts 4:36**

- A. In the early church in Jerusalem, where there was much to discourage...
- B. ...Barnabas was called "son of encouragement."

### **III. His Attitude.**

- A. In a church known for its "wonderful spirit of generosity," he stood out. 4:33
- B. In an environment dominated by fear, he showed remarkable courage. 9:27
- C. In a situation causing suspicion and distrust, he brought reality. 11:22-23
- D. In an opportunity for personal aggrandizement, he showed humility. 11:25
- E. In a time of immense need, he showed great social concern. 11:30
- F. In a comfortable situation, he responded to God's call to move on. 13:2-3
- G. In a dangerous predicament, he showed unusual joy and peace. 13:50-52
- H. In a wild and woolly moment, he kept his head. 14:14
- I. In a time of great decision, he wobbled and then stood firm. 15:12; Galatians 2:13
- J. In a moment of sharp dissension, he held to his principles. 15:39; 2 Timothy 4:11

**Point to Ponder:** What more could you ask for in a leader?