

THE ENCOURAGER

<http://www.encouragementonline.com>

MAY 2011

JOSE IS CALLED BARNABAS, “SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT”

I've Been Single For 18 Years And I Don't Know Of Any Group Of Human Beings Who Need More Encouragement Than The SINGLE Soul!

So Often, All The Burdens We Carry In Our Heart, We Bear Alone.

There Is No “Other” To Bear With Us Here, **Except JESUS CHRIST!**

No Human Knows What Emotional Pain Lies Deep In The Heart Of Another SOUL. No One Knows The SPIRIT Of The Man But That Man And His **CREATOR GOD**.

WHO Can Sense The Isolation Of Another, And Bring Them Into The Presence And Fellowship Of Those Favored And Accepted On The Inside Of The Circle?

There Was Such A Man In The Book Of ACT'S. His Name Was JOSE (ee-o-sace) A Levite Priest Of The Country Of Cyprus.

JOSE Was A TRUE ENCOURAGER! Even The Apostles (Of JESUS CHRIST) Surnamed Him “BARNABAS—SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT.”

JOSE/BARNABAS Was Among Them That Sold Land And Brought The Profit For The Poor And Needy Ones In Jerusalem. Acts 4:36-37.

When The Chosen Apostle SAUL (Hebrew Name)/Paul (Roman Name Citizen Of Tarsus(now in Turkey), Who Was Given The Great Responsibility Of Sharing **THE GOSPEL** With The Non-Jewish World, Was Blinded By **The Light Of The Already Risen CHRIST JESUS**, —And Needed Healing For His Eyes— Another Man Named Ananias Listened To CHRIST And Went Into A Man's House To Touch & To Pray For SAUL For Restored Sight And Filling With **THE HOLY SPIRIT**. (SAUL, A Man With A Well Known Record Of Killing Christians. 9:15.

This Really Took Some TRUST In JESUS; To Even Help A Man, Who Hurt Christians, And Delivered Them Unto Martyrdom. But Obeying CHRIST, Denying His Own Reservations, Ananias Cared For SAUL.

Now Saul/Paul Wanted To Be Baptized UNTO JESUS, And They Baptized Him That Day. And He Ate With Them (His First Meal Among Christians). And SAUL Was Strengthened. (**ENABLED, IMPOWERED, INVIGORATED**) (TO DO GOOD).

But The People That SAUL/Paul Shared The Gospel With, QUESTIONED His CHARACTER. “Is Not This (Man) He That Destroyed Them Who Called On THIS NAME (JESUS)..??” (Acts 9:21).

At This Point In SAUL'S Life, He Had A Mighty ‘Calling’ To FULFILL, But Few WHO Wanted To Believe That CHRIST Had Made A New Man Out Of Him.

At One Point SAUL Was Delivered From The Searching Of Jews In The Gates Of Damascus, Syria Who Wanted To Kill Him For His Preaching. But His Students Enabled Him To Escape In The Middle Of The Night, Over A Wall, In A Basket.

Having Escaped Syria, SAUL Comes To Jerusalem. Would The Chief Apostles Welcome Him Into Their Close Fellowship There In The Holy City?

Here, Again **BARNABAS- THE ENCOURAGER STEPS IN BETWEEN SAUL AND THE APOSTOLIC RULERS, TO INTRODUCE SAUL/PAUL TO THEM AND TO STAND BY HIM AND PROCLAIM THE WONDERFUL WORKS JESUS CHRIST HAD ALREADY DONE IN HIM**. AND ANNOUNCING SAUL'S CALLING TO EXPANDED APOSTLESHIP.

“And When SAUL Had Come To Jerusalem He TRIED TO JOIN The Disciples; But They Were All AFRAID OF HIM, And DID NOT BELIEVE THAT HE WAS A DISCIPLE (DISCIPLINED BY CHRIST).

“**BUT BARNABAS TOOK HIM AND BROUGHT HIM TO THE APOSTLES IN JERUSALEM**.

The Son Of ENCOURAGEMENT Was Not ASHAMED To TRAVEL With SAUL, And He Was Not AFRAID To RISK His Own Good Standing With THE APOSTLES. But **BARNABAS INTRODUCED** A NOTORIOUS PERSECUTER TO THE VERY TOP OF THE CHURCH RULERS IN JERUSALEM. Wow? This Might Have Put BARNABAS' CHARACTER INTO QUESTION BY THEM?

‘Who Are You? Bringing This SAUL Of Tarsus In Before Us?’

BUT BARNABAS BELIEVED IN PAUL, AND WHAT CHRIST HAD DONE, AND WOULD DO IN AND THROUGH THIS SERVANT VESSEL!

Though Others Might Still Look Back At Him As ‘The OLD SAUL Of Tarsus, The Persecutor’.

BARNABAS Was WELL RESPECTED And Loved Among All Believers. He Ministered Out Of Jerusalem; Was Sent To Antioch (now Turkey), He Often Traveled And Taught, And Paul Went With Him,The ENCOURAGER.

The Apostles At The Direction Of **THE HOLY SPIRIT CHOSE BARNABAS** And SAUL/PAUL, And Sent Them Out On Missionary Work Together. SAUL Was Greatly Strengthened. For The First Time PAUL Took The Missionary Lead For BARNABAS. What Exactly Happened To Saul Between Verse 9 And Verse 13? (Acts 13:2-13).

BARNABAS, Like Apostle ANDREW, Had A GIFT FOR CONNECTING SAINTS WITH SAINTS.

IT WAS IN COMPANY WITH BARNABAS, THAT SAUL **REALLY BECAME PAUL** THE APOSTLE TO THE WORLD.

CAN WE BE THAT KIND Of ENCOURAGER For A Brother Or Sister Who's Character Is Being Questioned? —Even Stand Up For Them. Are We Willing To Risk Our Good Name, To Save The Name, And Promote The Work Of Another? **BARNABAS WAS! AND PAUL SUCCEEDED EVEN HIM!**