



## “The Journey To New Beginnings”

[16] But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you,  
Or to turn back from following after you; For  
wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you  
lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my  
people, And your God, my God

**Ruth 1:16**

*“Lessons from Ruth”*

## Character Study: *Barnabas*



*“The Church At Antioch”*

# BARNABAS

THE ENCOURAGER

34. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 36. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37. sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet..

**Acts 4:34-37**

# The State of the early Church...

**19.** Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. **20.** But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. **21.** And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. **Acts 11:19-21**

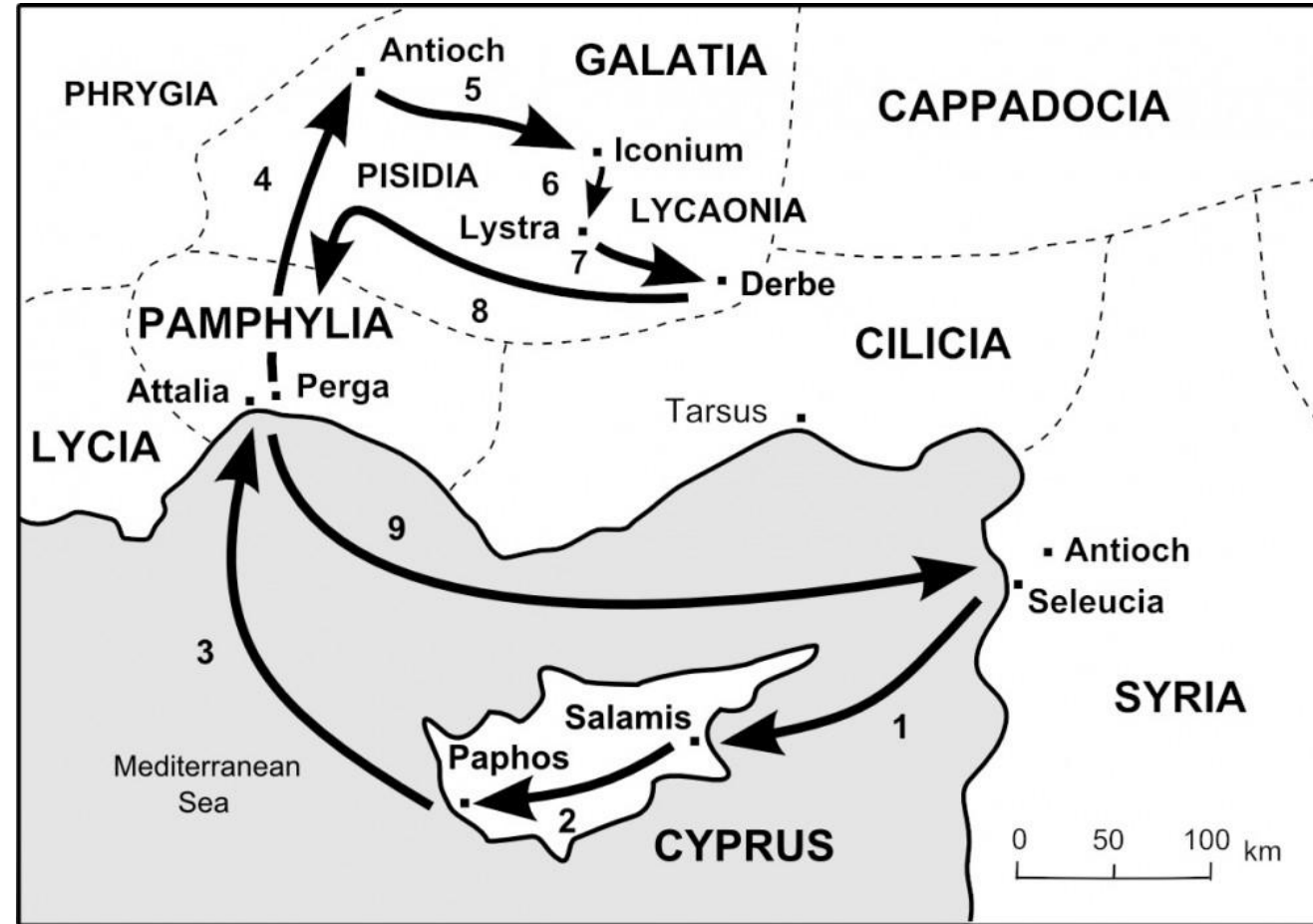
*The early church was faced with persecution which turned out to strengthen their faith...*

[22] and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. [23] When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. **Matt 10:22-23**



# The Early Church...

1. They were sent by the holy spirit – Acts 13:1-5
2. They brought the gospel of hope, healing and deliverance – Acts 13:12,32, Acts 14:8
3. They did not glorify themselves – Acts 14:14
4. They did not force people to accept the gospel – Acts 13:51
5. They were strengthened by the Holy Spirit – Acts 13:46



18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **Matt 28:18-20**

# Who was Barnabas?

22. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, 24. for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord 25. So, Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26. and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.... **Acts 11:22-24**

- He was a Levite – Acts 4:36-37
- He was a teacher – Acts 11:23
- He was a good man – Acts 11:24
- He was full of the Holy Spirit – Acts 11:24
- He was a facilitator of missions – Acts 13:2-3
- He was a mentor – Acts 9:27, Acts 14:21-23
- He was an encouragement to the early church – Acts 11:23

20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable..... **2 Tim 2:20**

# How can we be an encouragement to someone else ?

**23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing nearby. **Hebs 10:23-25**

1. **Lifestyle** – **7**. Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. **Hebs 13:7**, Eps 4:1-3, Titus 2:3-5
2. **Word of God** – **12**. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Hebs 4:12**, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Psalms 19:7-8
3. **Prayer** – **16**. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. **James 5:16**, Acts 6:4, Cols 1:9

# Jesus Christ as the ultimate model of Encouragement

1. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2. fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.. **Hebs 12:1-3**

1. **Jesus Mentor's 12 disciples** - 13. Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15. and to have authority to drive out demons. **Mark 3:13-15**, Matt 10:1-15, John 13:1-17
2. **Heart of Compassion** - 35. Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **Matt 9:35-36**, Luke 10:30-37

# Retrospect... How can I be an encouragement to someone ?



**13.** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **14.** Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15.** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...

**Phils 2:13-15**

*Be Encouraged....*