

Series: New Year Reminders

Sermon: Live To Encourage

**Passage: Various**

Illustration:

Need: When we strive to live in obedience to Christ our lives will be an encouragement to the body.

**I. Sacrificial Investment (Acts 4:36-37)**

- Barnabas sacrificed his personal property to provide for the needs of others.
- Jesus set aside what was rightfully His to identify with us (Phil. 2:5-7).

**II. Unusual Intercession (Acts 9:26-27)**

- The believers in Jerusalem didn't believe that Paul was truly one of them now and were afraid.
- Barnabas stood up for Paul's authentic conversion and that he be embraced as a brother in Christ.
- Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit faithfully intercedes on our behalf (Rom. 8:26-27, 34).

**III. Willing Service (Acts 11:19-24; 13:1-3)**

- Barnabas was willing to serve the gospel mission in whatever way and wherever he was needed.
- Jesus held nothing back, willingly obeying the plan of God to lay down His life to (Phil. 2:8)

**IV. Defense of Truth (Acts 15:1-2)**

- Some Jews were trying to add works to the gospel of faith alone for the gentile believers.
- Barnabas boldly defended the gospel of faith alone, in Christ alone.
- Jesus, God the Son, is the truth and righteousness is found only by faith in Him (John 14:6), which He boldly and graciously proclaimed.

**V. Commitment to Restoration (Acts 15:36-41)**

- John Mark, Barnabas' cousin (Col. 4:10), had abandoned Paul & Barnabas on their missionary journey.
- When it came time to depart again Barnabas wanted to bring John Mark along again but Paul was unwilling to concede. Luke said they had a "sharp disagreement."
- Barnabas was more passionate about restoring his cousin & brother in Christ than perceived efficiency.
- Jesus lovingly restored one who had denied Him at His time of greatest trial (John 21:15-19).

**VI. 2023 Reminder #4: Live to Encourage!**

- Would others be encouraged by your current financial investment in the kingdom?
- Are others encouraged by the way you stand for and with them in their faith?
- Does your faithfulness in service to the gospel ministry encourage others to join in the effort?
- Are others encouraged by your dedication to Biblical truth and your bold but gracious defense of it?
- Does your pursuit of fallen brothers encourage others to value the ministry of restoration?