

=LITTLE-KNOWN BIBLE CHARACTERS=

Lesson 11

Barnabas, a Good Man Deluded

AIM: to teach my students that there are some things to which they should not listen.

INTRODUCTION: Barnabas and Paul had spent many years together as laborers. Now in Acts 15:37-39 we find the last mention of the man Barnabas in the Word of God. The question that we would ask ourselves is: “Why was Barnabas no longer included in the record of God, and what can we learn from his disappearance?”

I. THE MAN, BARNABAS.

1. He was an unselfish man. (Acts 4:36, 37)
2. He was trusted by the local church. (Acts 11:22, 25, 30)
3. He finished the jobs set before him. (Acts 12:25)
4. He was a co-laborer with Paul. (Acts 13:1-50)
5. He was the first friend of Paul. (Acts 9:27)
6. He was a humble man. (Acts 14:8-18)
7. He was sound in doctrine. (Acts 15:2-35)
8. He was accorded the place of an Apostle by Paul. (I Corinthians 9:6)

II. THE SIN. In Galatians 2:13, we learn that Barnabas “was carried away with their dissimulation.” This was speaking of the Jews. “Dissimulation” literally means “a feigned or a pretended action.” So Barnabas was carried away or deluded by the pretense of some false friends that caused him to commit the act that is recorded in Acts 15:37, where he argued with Paul, who had been given the leadership in the group. He argued with Paul in his determination to take Mark. Mark was Barnabas’ nephew. See Colossians 4:10.

III. THE PREVENTIVE. If we are to refrain from doing the things that caused this good man to fall, the best thing for us to do is to decide that there are some things to which we may listen and some things to which we dare not listen. Go through the concordance and you will find that there are some things about which God tells the speakers, “Hold thy peace.” Compare Luke 19:40 and Titus 1:11 for the definition of “hold thy peace,” which could be worded, “shut your mouth.”

1. Hold thy peace so as not to interrupt a preaching service. Read Zephaniah 1:7; Acts 12:17; I Corinthians 14:30.
2. Hold thy peace, improper person who is talking about God. Notice Mark 1:25.
3. Hold thy peace; do not complain how toilsome it is to serve God. See Exodus 14:14; Nehemiah 8:11.
4. Hold thy peace, people who would tell us not to get too wrapped up in God’s work and God’s men. Notice II Kings 2:3, 5.
5. Hold thy peace when you hear conversation about the shortcomings of others. Read II Samuel 13:20.
6. Hold thy peace, people who say man doesn’t really need saving. See Romans 3:19.

CONCLUSION: Barnabas was a good man, and he was off to a good start as he and Paul served the Lord together. However, as Paul’s leadership was blessed of God, Barnabas then argued over taking Mark on a missionary journey. Paul would not do so; consequently, Barnabas took Mark with him, and we do not know of any of Barnabas’ accomplishments after that! Paul took Silas then as a partner, and truly, we have the Gospel today because of all that God did through Paul!