Investing in Others: Barnabas

Acts 4:32-37

Introduction:

- A. We just concluded a camp where 82 young people spent the week learning about Leadership.
- B. One of the most common questions I get about this camp and a lot of the events we do here at Karns is, "Why do you guys put forth so much effort in order to do these events?"
- C. When we pour into the life of one person, we are pouring into the lives of many people.

A Man of Faith and Action: Barnabas

- A. The early Christians sold their land and houses and brought the proceeds to the apostles so they could distribute it to those who were in need (Acts 4:32-37).
- B. The apostles gave him the name because they thought Barnabas was an encourager to others.
- C. Barnabas put his faith into action and poured his life into the lives of others by encouraging them.

A Man Who Invested in Others: Barnabas and Paul

- A. Saul/Paul has just been converted and started preaching in the synagogues (Acts 9:17-22).
- B. Saul escaped to Jerusalem only to have the disciples in Jerusalem not believe and trust him (Acts 9:23-26).
- C. Barnabas accepted Saul with love and kindness and vouched for him among the other disciples (**Acts** 9:27-28).
- D. Saul (later named Paul) went on to become one of the greatest missionaries the world has ever known (Acts 11:19-30; 13-14).
- E. By investing in Paul, Barnabas invested in others like (Luke, Timothy and Titus).

A Man Who Didn't Give Up on Others: Barnabas and John Mark

- A. Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement over taking John Mark along with them (Acts 15:36-41).
- B. There will be times when those you have invested in will disappoint or hurt you. You may even want to throw in the towel on them and think they are a lost cause.
- C. Barnabas invested in John Mark and did not give up on him (2 Tim. 4:11).
- D. Who in your life needs you to keep believing in them and not give up on you.

Conclusion:

- A. I am who I am today because there were people in my life who believed and invested in me when the easy thing might have been to give up on me.
- B. Look for opportunities to pour into the lives of other people. You never know what kind of difference it might make. It just might make an eternal difference for many people.

6-12-2016 – A.M. Justin Morton