

Our text speaks of the development of Barnabas to becoming an effective man of God.

Acts 11:22-26 ²²Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. ²³When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. ²⁴For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. ²⁶And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

I. A GOOD MAN

A. Discipleship is worked out in connection with the church

1. **V24** for he was a good man...useful/beneficial; to others – to the church!

a. A Disciple lives/chooses/acts in ways that benefit the church – other people

1. Q: What do you do that benefits the church/other people?

B. Discipleship involves receiving direction **V22** they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

1. It's not just what do you think/you want – what others see and ask you to do

a. Becomes a test: Can you follow instructions? Later on you will be on your own/people's lives

2. Following instruction is a good test of our pride: Don't tell me what to do! Then can't be a man of God
a. A good man follows instructions

II. A SUPERNATURAL MAN

A. Ministry is supernatural: *Beyond information/skills/techniques*

1. It takes a miracle to get people saved/locked in/get delivered

a. You need a supernatural dimension to hear from God: Revelation/timing/

b. You need a supernatural dimension to be protected from harm

B. So an essential requirement for disciples is that they have a supernatural dimension at work

1. **V24** full of the Holy Spirit...Something supernatural that was identifiable

a. What you're full of overflows/can be seen by others; There will be evidence of it

1. Conversions/breakthroughs/financial miracles/healing/gifts of the spirit...

b. If you have that at work now – you are much more likely to have it when you go out/other areas

2. **V24** full...of faith What you believe will determine what happens in your life; *According to your faith...*

a. Faith comes from God's word: You need to dig into/make the promises of God your own

1. So you respond to problems Biblically/spiritually

a. Caleb: We are well able! b. David: I come in the name of the Lord of Hosts...I know who God is!

b. Anyone used/blessed by God is someone who is full of faith: It's infectious/Can help others believe

III. AN AWARE MAN

A. Effectiveness is determined by what you see

1. Disciples can tend to focus on themselves: At church/in life

a. You can't help people if you are unaware that they are missing/in trouble/have needs

2. But shepherds are aware of the needs of others/the flock

a. **Luke 15:4** if he loses one, he leaves the 99 and searches...

1. Do you notice visitors come in? Do you notice when people are missing? Can you tell when people are hurting/going through something?

b. Barnabas was aware that Saul was not accepted/feeling eyes of suspicion b/c of his past

B. Effectiveness is determined by what you do

1. It's not enough to see/feel bad for people: You have to do something!

a. **V25-26** ²⁵Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. ²⁶And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.

2. This released blessing: In Saul/in the church Brought impact in the city

a. **V26** So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people.

And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.