GET GOING – THE PERSON GOD USES: BARNABAS

<u>INTRO REMARKS</u>

AGREE THAT IN CULTURE → LOTS OF CELEBRITIES BUT VERY FEW HEROES?

CELEBRITY → KNOWN FOR THEIR NAME BEING WELL KNOWN (HOUSEHOLD)

HEROES → KNOWN THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE

CELEBRITY → REVEALS THE POSSIBILITIES OF WITHIN MEDIA/ENT. WORLD

HEROES → REVEAL THE POSSIBILITIES OF GOODNESS OF HUMAN NATURE

CELEBRTIES → MAKE NEWS …HEROES → MAKE HISTORY

TIME MAKES HEROES …WHEREAS TIME DISSOLVES CELEBRITIES

HERO? A PERSON WHO DOES SOMETHING SELFLESS OR SACRIFICIAL PUTTING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS BEFORE THEIR OWN

SOME HEROES → KNOWN IN THEIR LIFETIME FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

OTHER TIMES → CALL SOMEONE A HERO AFTER THEY ARE DEAD AND GONE

CALL THEM → *UNSUNG HEROES* → DON'T REALIZE HOW HEROIC THAT INDIVUDUAL WAS UNTIL TIME HAD PASSED → GET A DIFFERENT PERSP.

MOST FAMILIES → HAVE AN *UNSUNG HERO* IN THEIR RANKS (WIFE, HUSBAND, CHILD, GRANDPARENT, AUNT, UNCLE

I SEE AN UNS*UNG HERO* AS A PERSON WHO WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES AND DOESN'T CARE IF SOMEONE ELSE GETS THE CREDIT

HISTORY IS FULL OF THEM → THE "ANGEL" – JAPANESE OFFICERCHIUNE SUGIHARA JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN WWII → HAND WROTE 6K VISAS FOR JEWS FLEEING THE HOLOCAUST IN LITHUANIA → RESPONSIBLE = 100K PEOPLE CURRENTLY WALKING ON EARTH

MORDECAI HAM → BILLY GRAHAM

BOOK OF ACTS → FILLED W/UNSUNG HEROES → LOOK AT ONE THIS AM NOT HOUSEHOLD NAME IN HIS TIME → BUT GOD USED HIM TO TOUCH A MAN WHO BECAME A HOUSEHOLD NAME AND MANY OTHERS
SERIES SUMMARY + LAST WEEK JP → UNSUNG HERO → PHILIP AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE PERSON GOD USES → BARNABAS

BARNABAS = PERFECT FOR THIS "GET GOING" SERIES

FIRST "GET GOING" OBSERVATION FROM THE LIFE OF BARNABAS =

THE PERSON GOD USES HAS:

A WILLINGNESS TO SEE AND LIFT UP OTHERS

Acts 4:32-37 (NIV)
32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

***Paraklēseōs* = SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT, EXHORTATION, COMFORT, CONSOLATION**

BARNABAS = A NICKNAME THAT HE WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY THE APOSTLES

- **CONSPICUOUSLY THOUGHTFUL OF OTHERS**

- **WANTED GOD'S BEST FOR OTHERS**
- **SAW HIMSELF AN INSTRUMENT OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

ENCOURAGEMENT

WHEN SOMEONE ELSE VOLUNTARILY FILLS YOU WITH COURAGE, HOPE, STRENGTH, FAITH, OR PERSPECTIVE THAT LIFTS YOU UP EMOTIONALLY

CONTEXT/ENVIRONMENT – RADICAL, SPIRIT EMPOWERED ATTITUDES RESULTING IN EQUALLY PHENOMENAL, SPIRIT EMPOWERED ACTIONS AND YET BARBANBAS STANDS OUT

KNOW ANYBODY WHO IS GOOD AT THAT? I DO → GREG MUNCK

ENCOURAGEMENT = GIFT INDIVIDUALLY & COMMAND FOR ALL BELIEVERS

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)
"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement"

CULTURE OF SELF ABSORBTION = A FAMINE OF PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT

HAVE TO SLOW TO SEE → SEE TO ENCOURAGE/LIFT UP

WHEN PEOPLE ARE NOT SEEN – OBSERVED – SENSED – THEY CANNOT

WHY SHOULD BELIEVERS BE THE MOST ENCOURAGING PEOPLE ON THE PLANET – BECAUSE OUR GOD IS ENCOURAGING.

ENCOURAGEMENT COSTS SO LITTLE MEANS SO MUCH…

LANCE WITT …

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NIV)
16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NIV)

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

SEE THE CYCLE OF ENCOURAGEMENT?

GOD SAW ME → MY CONDITION → STEPPED INTO HISTORY AND MY LIFE TO OFFER ME ETERNAL ENCOURAGEMENT THAT STARTS RIGHT NOW THROUGH HIS SON

IN OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY, THE FAMILY OF CHRIST, WE ENCOURAGE OTHERS – SOMETIMES IT'S A GIFT – SOMETIMES IT'S A DISCIPLINE – BUT IT'S ALWAYS IN FAITH

SO, WHAT IF WE DON'T PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS – WHAT IF THE COMMUNITY BELIEVERS DOES NOT ACCEPT ITS COMMISSION TO AGENT ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

PEOPLE BECOME HARDENED = PERCEPTION OF SELF, GOD, OTHERS, CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FUTURE – COATING OVER YOUR THINKING THAT PREVENTS HOPING, DREAMING, RISKING, ADVENTURING, TRUSTING

WITHOUT ENCOURAGEMENT PEOPLE BEGIN TO BELIEVE THE LIE = THIS IS JUST WHO YOU ARE, YOU WILL NEVER BREAK THROUGH, GOD DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT HIM,

WHO DO YOU KNOW THAT EITHER DESERVES OR NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT RIGHT NOW?

SECOND "GET GOING" OBSERVATION FROM THE LIFE OF BARNABAS =

PERSON GOD USES HAS:

A WILLINGNESS TO RISK OBEDIENCE IMMEDIATELY

ACTS 4:36-37 NIV

"Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement) [37] sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."

SOLD – BROUGHT – PUT

LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE GIVING STUFF – BUT LUKE (AUTHOR OF ACTS OF APOSTLES) SINGLES OUT BARNABAS

FILTERING A CIRCUMSTANCE – HEARS THIS UPSIDE-DOWN REQUEST IN HIS HEAD LIKE – YOU HAVE A TRACK OF LAND BACK HOME IN CYPRUS – SELL YOURS, TAKE THE MONEY AND ADD SOME FUEL TO THIS FIRE –

NOT LIKE HE CAN TEXT HIS PROPERTY MANAGER OR BROKER AND SAYS LET'S MOVE A LITTLE MONEY AROUND AND MAKE THIS HAPPEN

GOD SAYS SELL, HE SELLS → GOES LONG!

THIRD "GET GOING" OBERSAVATION FROM THE LIFE OF BARNABAS =

PERSON GOD USES HAS:

A WILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Acts 9:26-28 (NIV)
[26] When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. [27] But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. [28] So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

"THEY WERE ALL AFRAID … BUT BARNABAS …"

ROAD LESS TRAVELED IN THIS MOMENT = IS PUTTING ON YOUR BLINKER TO HELP SOMEONE NO ONE WANTS TO HELP AND HAS A LABEL, A CARICATURE, AND FALSE NARRATIVE ABOUT HIM IN THE WATER

DRIVING AGAINST TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD OF FEAR TO SUPPORT ANOTHER → ROAD OF REJECTION FOR ANOTHER → ROAD OF LIES/GOSSIP FOR ANOTHER IN

ORDER TO SECURE BELIEF IN SAUL, ACCEPTANCE OF SAUL, AND THE TRUTH ABOUT SAUL

"BREAKING RANK"
to do or say something different from what a group you belong to does or says

INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY FROM SAUL HE RUNS TO HIM, TAKES SAUL BACK TO THE APOSTLES ALONG WITH HIS REPUTUATION, ALL OF HIS CREDIBILITY, AND ALL HIS PERSONAL RELATIONAL LEVERAGE FOR THE PURPOSE TO GET SAUL ON THE TEAM AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

HE VOUCHES FOR SAUL HE VALIDATES SAUL …LAYING ALL HIS CREDIBILITY, LEVERAGE AND REPUTATION ON THE LINE

ONLY ONE PERSON WAS PREPARED TO WELCOME THE PERSON THE CHURCH WAS SLOW TO FORGIVE → BARNABUS

TO WIN SAUL A SEAT AT THE TABLE OF LEADERSHIP

IMAGINE YOUR SAUL IN THIS DEAL: SAME THING HAPPENED IN DAMASCUS → SAME FEAR → SAME HESITATION→ CAN'T ESCAPE MY PAST → JESUS FORGIVES ME WHY CAN'T MY OWN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST → MAYBE THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT BECAUSE I HAVE SOME CREDIBILITY IN MINISTRY → GO TALK TO THEM → HIGH HOPES → IT'S A NO BRO! SORRY.

FEEL CONFUSED, HEAD DOWN, AND SOME DUDE GRABS YOUR ARM AND SAYS COME WITH ME, START WALKING THROUGH DOORS, SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT WITH ATTITUDE, AND ALL YOU DO IS WATCH SOMEONE BE YOUR CHAMPION

RELEVANCE OF THIS MOMENT HISTORICALLY AND ONE MAN'S WILLINGNESS TO GO DOWN THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED FOR THE LORD

JESUS AND THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED TO ENCOURAGE – ETHNICALLY, PHYSICALLY, MORALLY UNACCEPTABLES TO CREATE ACCEPTANCE

THINK ABOUT HOW POWERFUL THIS IS - SAUL WAS ABOUT TO FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS OF HISTORY INTO OBSCURITY → THE WHOLE COURSE OF CHURCH HISTORY → COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

BARANABUS SECURED HIS PASSPORT TO PREACH ANYWHERE IN THE KNOWN WORLD WITH THE FULL ENDORSEMENT OF THE APOSTLES – WITHOUT THAT PASSPORT CAN'T PLANT CHURCHES – CAN'T PLANT CHURCHES – CAN'T WRITE LETTERS TO SUPPORT THOSE CHURCHES-
NO LETTERS – NO NEW TESTAMENT AFTER THE GOSPELS – NO BOOK OF ROMANS – NO BOOK OF ROMANS NO MARTIN LUTHER HAVING A FAITH BREAK THROUGH – NO REFORMATION …WELL…WESTERN CIVILIZATION WOULD LOOK A LOT DIFFERENT

RELEVANCE OF TAKING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED PRACTICALLY - FOR SOMEONE WHO IS NEW OR UNKNOWN OR UNDER SUSPICION WHO IS A BELIEVER – WITHOUT CONNECTIONS THEY RETURN TO OLD WAYS, OLD PATTERNS – SOMEONE NEEDS TO TAKE THEM UNDER THEIR WING

FIRST TOUCH MINISTRY → GAYLA AND JUSTIN STEIGLER TALKING ABOUT THIS VERY THING → HOW DO WE CONNECT, GO THE SECOND MILE AND HELP PEOPLE FLOURISH VERSUS LET THEM FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS

JESUS TALKED ABOUT TAKING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Matthew 5:38-42 (NIV)
38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'[a] 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

THE CHRIST FOLLOWER IS CALLED TO LIVE UPSIDE DOWN – SPIRIT EMPOWERED BEHAVIOR IS COUNTER-INTUITIVE TO A SELF ABSORBED WORLD THAT'S LOOKING FOR #1 - SHOW STOPPING STUFF

PERSON GOD USES IS WILLING TO GO DOWN THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED FOR GOD'S PURPOSES

THE FOURTH "GET GOING" OBSERVATION FROM THE LIFE OF BARNABAS =

PERSON GOD USES HAS:

A WILLINGNESS TO ACTIVELY ABIDE IN CHRIST

ABIDE = TO STAY OR REMAIN WITH SOMEONE

Acts 11:20-26 (NIV)

20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. 22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

REVIVAL GOING ON IN ANTIOCH AMONG GENTILES (GASP) → WHY DID THEY PICK HIM? CLEAR THAT BARNABAS IS WITH CHRIST

SEEING THE WORKS OF CHRIST IN ANTIOCH → HOW COULD HE TELL? BARNABAS IS WITH CHRIST – HE IS ACTIVELY PLUGGED IN

EXHORTING THEM TO REMAIN TRUE TO THE LORD → WHY GO THAT DIRECTION? BECAUSE HE KNOWS THEY WILL BE TESTED LIKE HE HAS UNDER PERSECUTION TO BREAK THEIR CONNECTION TO CHRIST – STOP ABIDING

WHAT'S THE SECRET SAUCE FOR BARANABAS BEING USED IN SUCH A COOL WAY → REALLY NO SECRET AT ALL → HE HAS A LIVING, BREATHING, RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

GOOD = CHOOSES TO FILL UP ON WHAT IS GOOD

FULL OF HS = CHOOSES TO PLACE HIMSELF UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HS

FULL OF FAITH = CHOOSES TO LET GOD BE WHO HE SAYS IS BY TRUSTING HIS WAYS AND SEEING WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON DOES TRUST

JESUS SAID GOOD, SPIRIT-EMPOWERED, AND FAITHFUL BELIEVERS WHO BEAR FRUIT FOR HIM ARE <u>MADE</u> NOT BORN

Matthew 12:33-35 (NIV)

33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.35 A good man brings good

things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

TREE IS A PERSON - ME AND YOU – BIBLE SAYS THERE IS A PROCESS OF "MAKING" A TREE "GOOD"

ACTIONS REFLECT THE HEART

HOW DOES THE HEART CHANGE → BY A PERSON CHOOSING TO FILL IT WITH SOMETHING GOOD

WHAT COMES "OUT" REFLECTS WHAT'S "STORED UP" WITHIN

VINE & BRANCH THE "BRANCH" HAS ONE GOAL

"Remain in Me… it must remain in the vine… unless you remain in me…. If you remain in me and I in you… If you do not remain in me… If you remain in me and my words remain in you…"

GOAL = INVEST TIME INTO YOUR CONNECTION TO CHRIST

FRUIT = **OUTWARD MANIFESTATION OF THE INNER NATURE**

SPIRITUAL FRUIT: = ANYTHING THAT MANIFESTS THE NATURE OF JESUS

AUTHENTIC VS SYNTHETIC CONNECTION TO JESUS

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'" Mark 7:6 NIV

BARNABUS WAS WILLING TO ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTHEN HIMSELF IN GOD AND THAT IS WHY GOD USED HIM TO ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTHEN OTHERS

OUR NEXT "GET GOING" OBSERVATION FROM THE LIFE OF BARNABAS =

PERSON GOD USES HAS:

A WILLINGNESS TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL IN COMMUNITY

Acts 13:1-3 (NIV)

1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for

me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." [3] So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

SUNDAYS – MIDWEEK – UPCOMING PRAYER EVENTS

Psalm 133 (NIV)

[1] "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! [2] It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. [3] It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore."

GOD HAS BUILT THE CROSSLINE COMMUNITIES FOR YOU TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM HIM – THE ONLY QUESTION IS ARE YOU THERE?

OUR LAST GET GOING OBSERVATION FROM THE LIFE OF BARNABAS =

PERSON GOD USES HAS:

A WILLINGNESS TO OFFER OTHERS ANOTHER CHANCE

Acts 15:36-41 (NIV)

[36] Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." [37] Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, [38] but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. [39] They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, [40] but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. [41] He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

DISAGREEMENT WAS OVERRULED BY GOD FOR GOOD – INSTEAD OF ONE MISSIONARY EXPEDITION THERE WERE NOW TWO

PAUL LATER ACKNOWLEDGES MARK'S WORTH

COL. 4:10

2 TIM. 4:11

1 PETER 5:12

I KNOW ANOTHER FAMOUS DESERTER …WHO BLEW IT, WENT BACK TO HIS DAY JOB, AND WAS THEN REINSTATED BY JESUS

JOHN 21:12-15 NIV

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who
are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and
did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after
he was raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love
me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

NEVER MORE LIKE JESUS THAN WHEN WE OFFER OTHERS A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

(THE HIGHLIGHTED PORTION BELOW ALTOGETHER ON SCREEN IF POSSIBLE)

THE UNSUNG HEROES IN GOD'S PLAN HAVE A WILLINGNESS TO:

SEE AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS

OBEY IMMEDIATELY

TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

ACTIVELY ABIDE IN CHRIST

DISCOVER GOD'S WILL IN COMMUNITY (VERSUS ISOLATION)

OFFER OTHERS ANOTHER CHANCE

TO BE WILLING MEANS

PREPARED OR READY TO COOPERATE WITH GOD'S SPIRIT TO DO GOD'S WILL IN ADVANCE OF BEING ASKED TO DO IT.