

*Friendships In Christ: When A
Piece Is Missing, Then What?
(The Story of Paul & Barnabas)*

Sunday, July 12

BRIEF BACKGROUND and PERSONALITY OF BARNABAS

ACTS 4:34-37

³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶ **Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.**

> *Personality: Genuine; Encourager; Courageous*

> *Background: Levite; Jewish (Ethnically and Religiously); Cyprus*

DEFENDS PEOPLE WHEN NO ONE ELSE WILL

ACTS 9:26-28

²⁶ And when he (Paul) had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

²⁷ **But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.**

²⁸ So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

HAPPY & FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT (ACTS 11:20-26)

²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ **When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people.**

And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

TRUSTWORTHY

ACTS 11:27-30

²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). ²⁹ **So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.** ³⁰ **And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.**

ENTER: JOHN MARK (The home Peter goes to when He is delivered from prison)

ACTS 12:12

12 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, **the mother of John whose other name was Mark**, where many were gathered together and were praying.

THE FIRST JOURNEY WITH JOHN MARK, BARNABAS, PAUL

ACTS 12:20-25

²⁰ Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon

²² And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. ²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.

²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

RELATIONSHIP: BARNABAS AND MARK are Cousins

COLOSSIANS 4

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and **Mark the cousin of Barnabas** (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),

THE CALL TO SERVE TOGETHER IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT of GOD

ACTS 13:

1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of 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 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

MISSIONARIES TO THE JEWS - ACTS 13

⁴³ And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ **And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you.**

MISSIONARIES TO THE GENTILES - ACTS 13

Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,

that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

BARNABAS DID NOT ALWAYS GET EVERYTHING RIGHT

GALATIANS 2

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. 13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

THE TAG TEAM of BARNABAS & PAUL HAD A TESTIMONY:
THEY RISKED THEIR LIVES

ACTS 15

¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

... ²⁵ it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷

AND THEN ... THE EARTHQUAKE of SEPARATION // THE MISSION CONTINUES (ACTS 15:36-41)

36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” **37** Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. **38** But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. **39** And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, **40** but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. **41** And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Paul or Barnabas:

WHO WAS RIGHT? WHO WAS WRONG?

~ Quote from James Montgomery Boice ~

Paul's Perspective

John Mark's Perspective

Barnabas' Perspective

THE SURPRISE AT THE BACK OF THE BOOKS

COLOSSIANS 4

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and **Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),** ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.

THE SURPRISE AT THE BACK OF THE BOOKS

PHILEMON 1

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

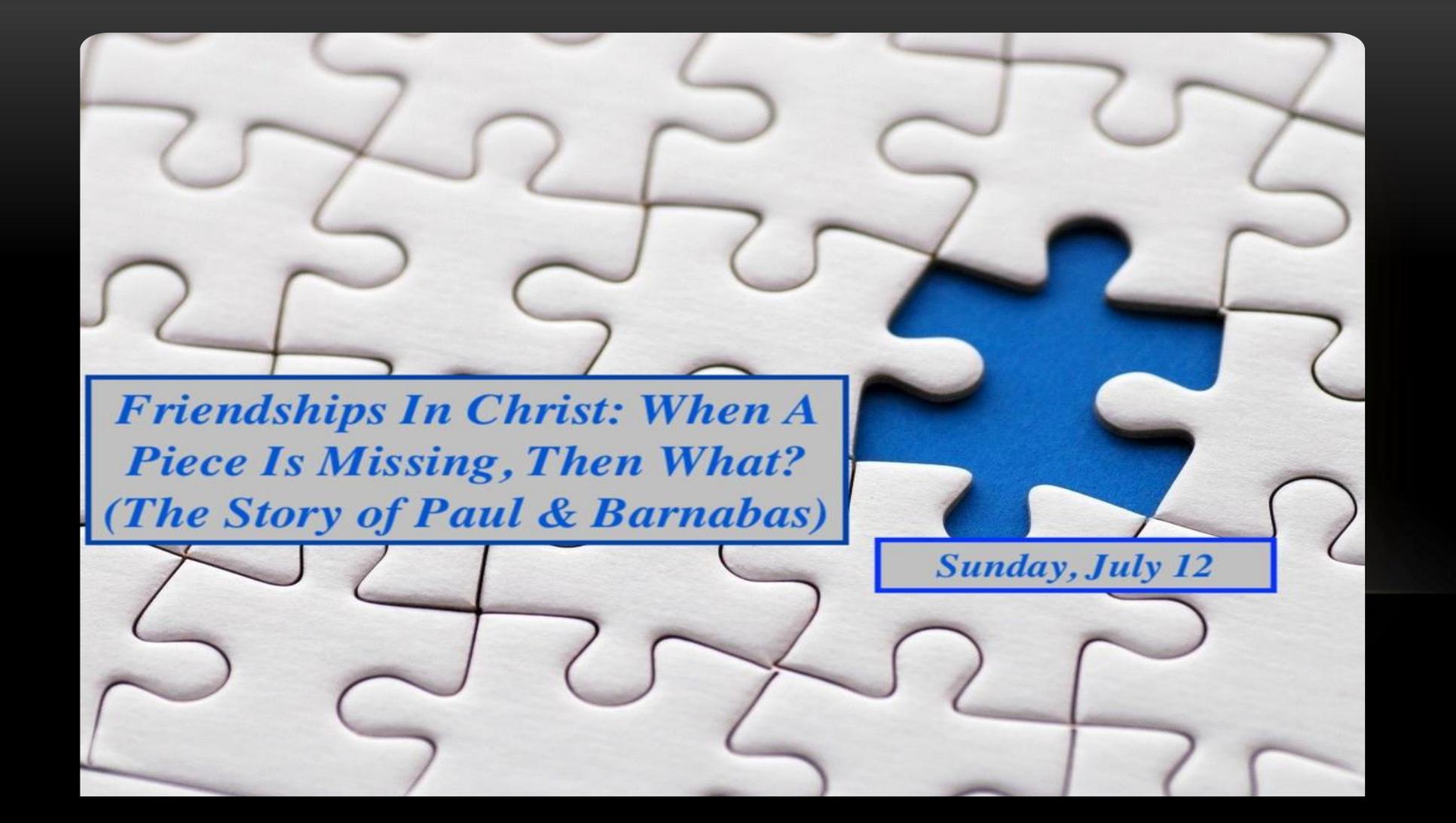
THE SURPRISE AT THE BACK OF THE BOOKS

2 TIMOTHY 4

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me. **Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.**

Conclusion:

Friendships in Christ ... When Someone Is Missing
In Our Lives, Then What?



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