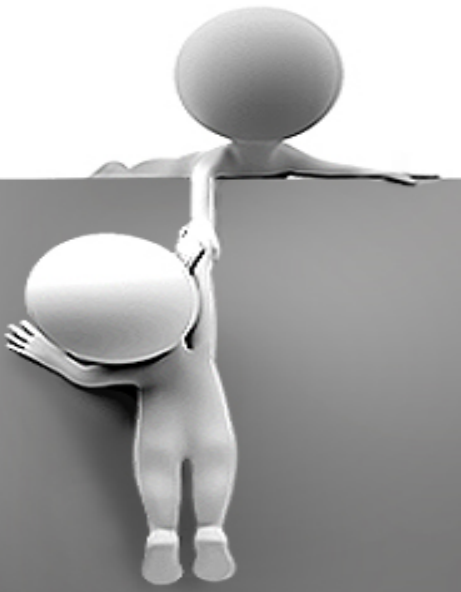


A Man Called Barnabas

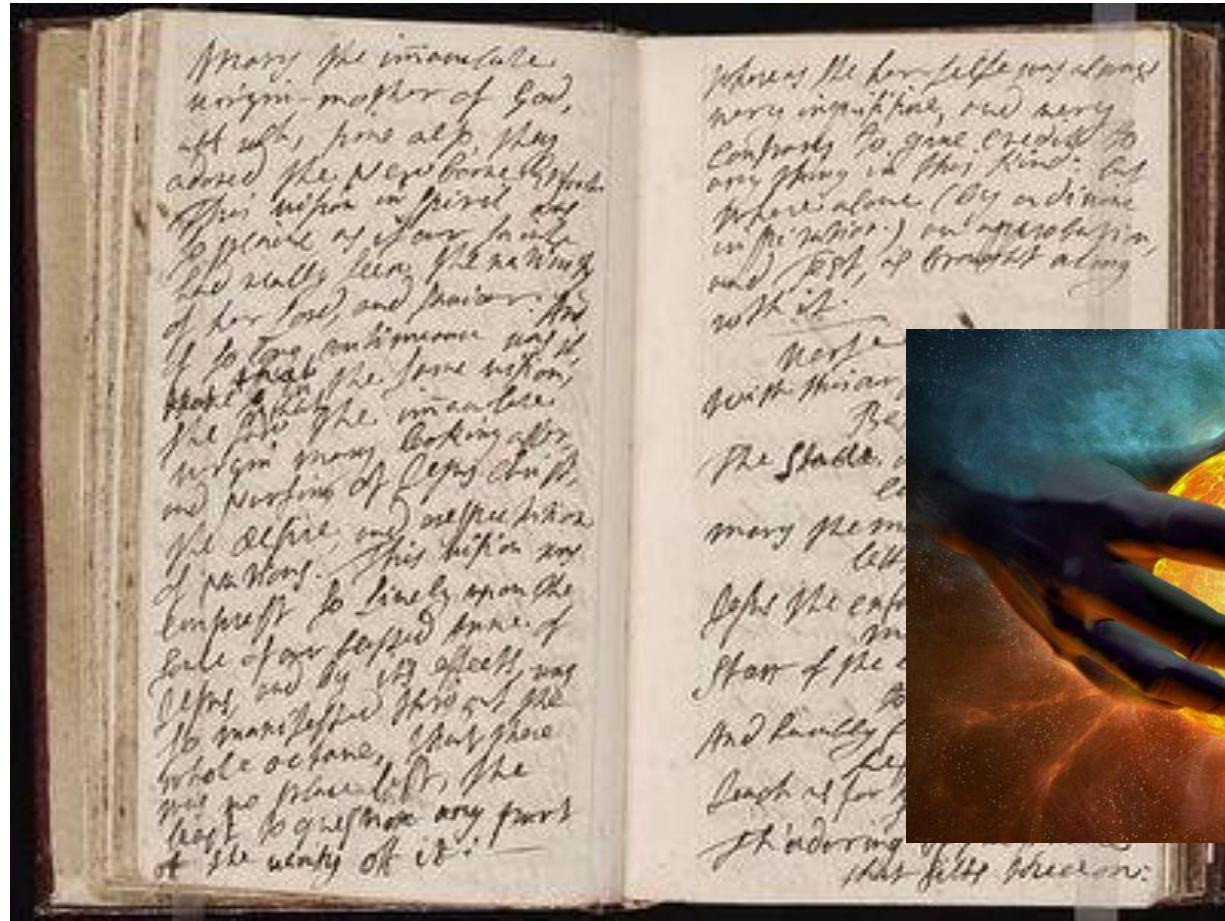
Acts 11:19-24

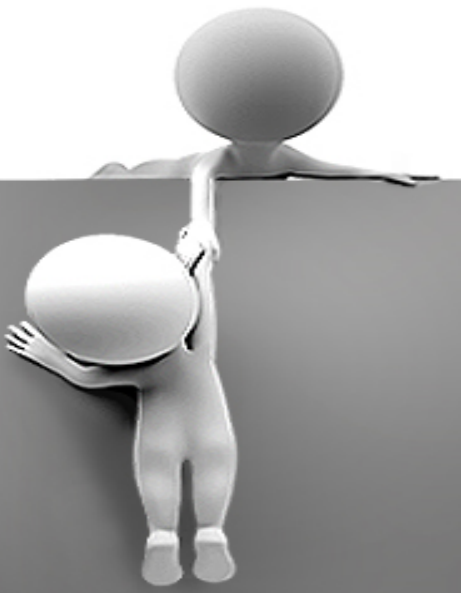
The image features a composite background of the Earth from space, with a circular cutout in the center. Inside this cutout, a bright, glowing sun or moon is visible, creating a lens flare effect. The text "HEROES OF FAITH" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font. The word "HEROES" is on the top line, and "OF FAITH" is on the bottom line, centered under "HEROES".

HEROES
OF FAITH



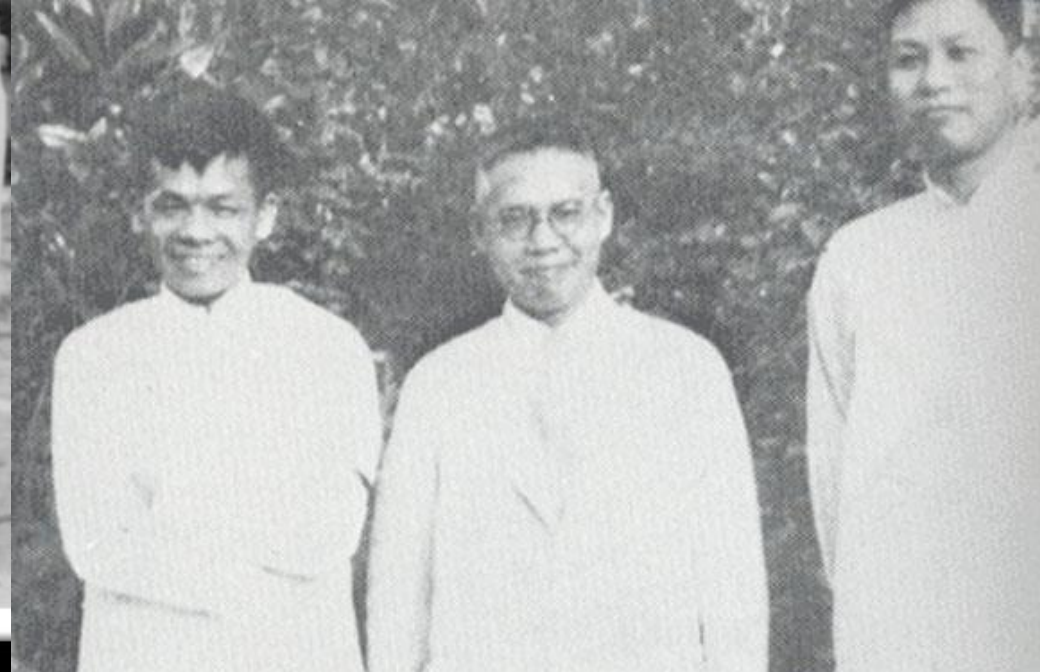
Why read biographies about Christians or heroes of faith?






Why read biographies about Christians or heroes of faith?

- Hebrews 13:7 "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith."
- Hebrews 6:12 "Do not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."
- Hebrews 11 is a collection of excerpts from the lives of great men and women of faith.



A Biography of
JOHN SUNG



"There is only one thing in which I excel them all: that is in serving God with every ounce of my strength!"
John Sung

LESLIE T. LYALL

John Sung (1901-1944)

- “Wesley of China”
- “Billy Sunday of China”
- “the apostle of China”
- “the greatest evangelist China has ever known”
- “probably the greatest preacher of this century”



John Sung (1901-1944)



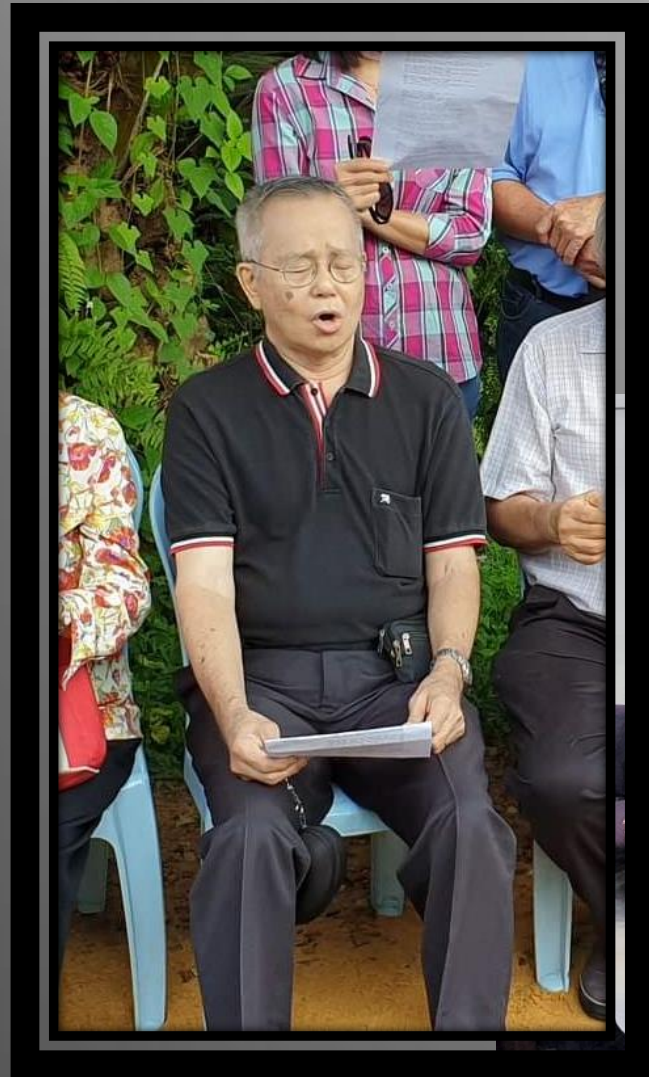
- It is reported that more than 100,000 Chinese were converted to evangelical Christianity through Sung's ministry
- Chinese Christians in 1949 numbered slightly less than a million
- John Sung's converts could have made up at least a tenth of the total Christian population in China by the time of his death in 1944

John Sung (1901-1944)

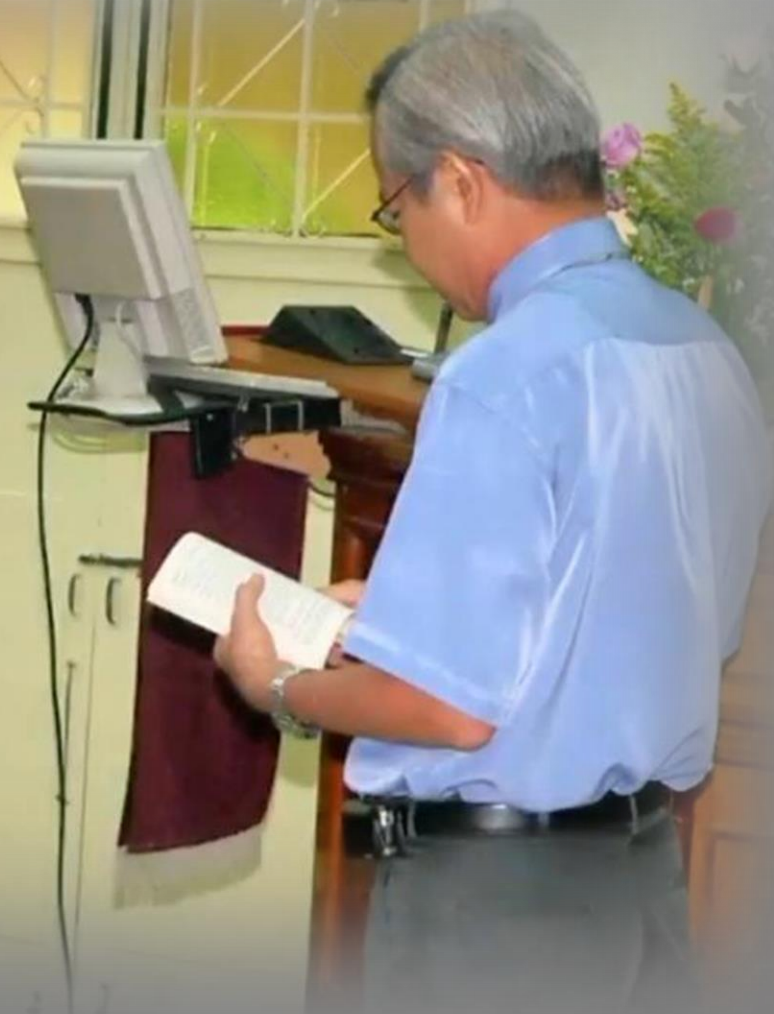
- First Visit (1935)
 - Telok Ayer Methodist Church, the annual growth rate in membership was 292% between 1935 and 1936, compared to 3% to 15% from 1930 to 1935
- Second Visit (Sept 1936)
 - Sibul, Sarikei, Muar, Kuala Lumpur, Klang, Penang, Sitiawan, and Singapore
- Third Visit (Nov 1938)
- Fourth Visit (May 1939- Jan 1940)

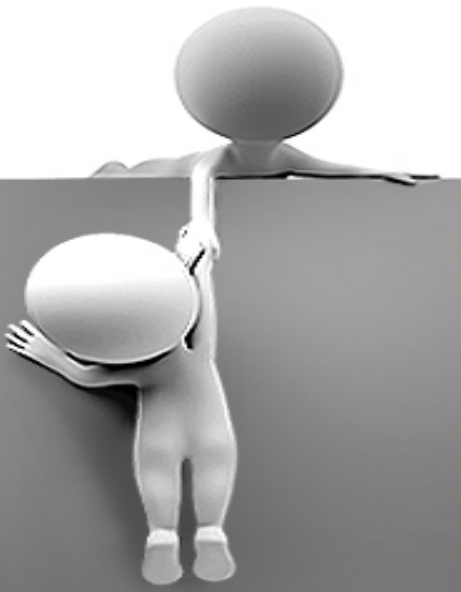


Nicholas Yeo (1942-2021)



Nicholas Yeo (1942-2021)





Who are the heroes of faith
in the book of Acts?

Acts 11:19-21



AC 11:19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as **Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch**, telling the message **only to Jews**. 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.



Cyrene



Acts 11:22-24



AC 11:22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent **Barnabas** to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the **grace of God**, 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.

Who was Barnabas?

- Joses or Joseph from Cyprus
- Hellenistic background (like Paul)
- Nicknamed 'Barnabas'
 - *huios paraklēseōs* in Acts 4:36
 - son of consolation (KJV)
 - son of exhortation (RSV, NIV)
 - son of encouragement (RSV, NIV)

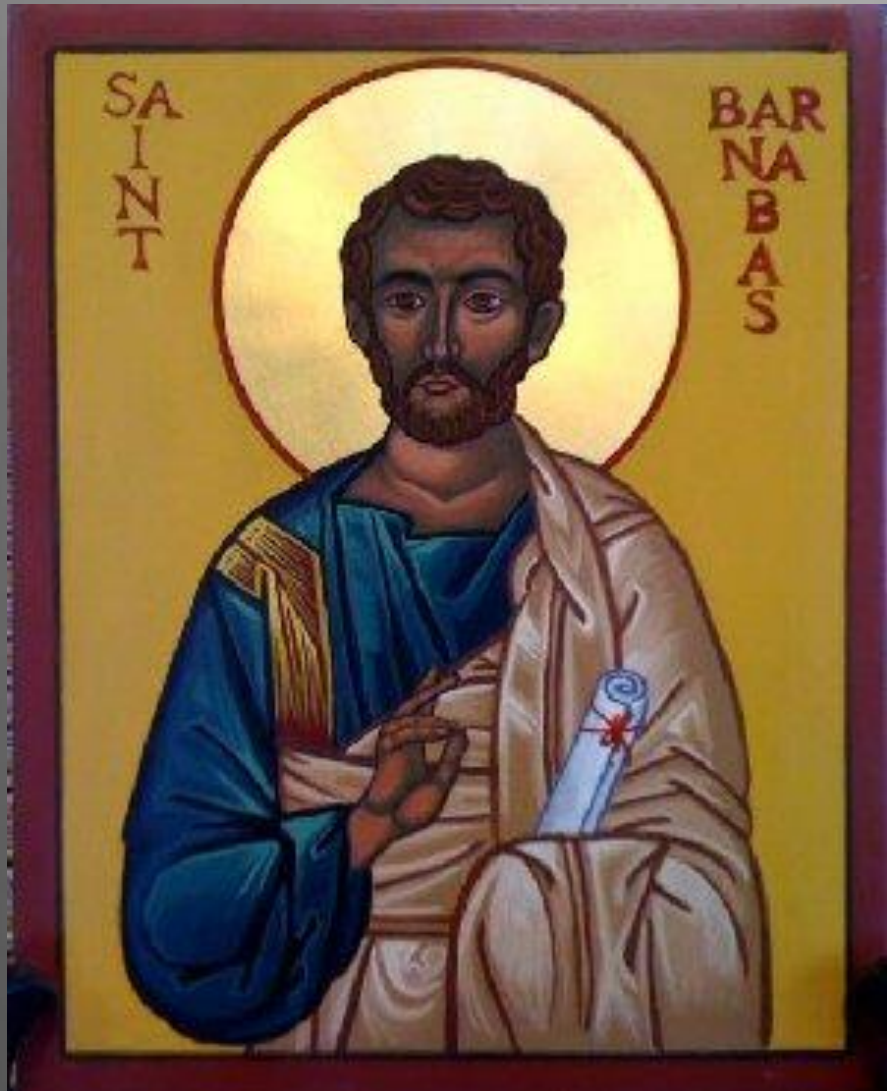


More about Barnabas



- from Cyprus (Acts 4:36) and settled in Jerusalem
- a Levite (Acts 4:36)
- owned land in Jerusalem -selling his land and giving the proceeds to the apostles (Acts 4:36)
- John Mark was his cousin whose mother, Mary, lived in Jerusalem and hosted the church in her home (Acts 12:12)

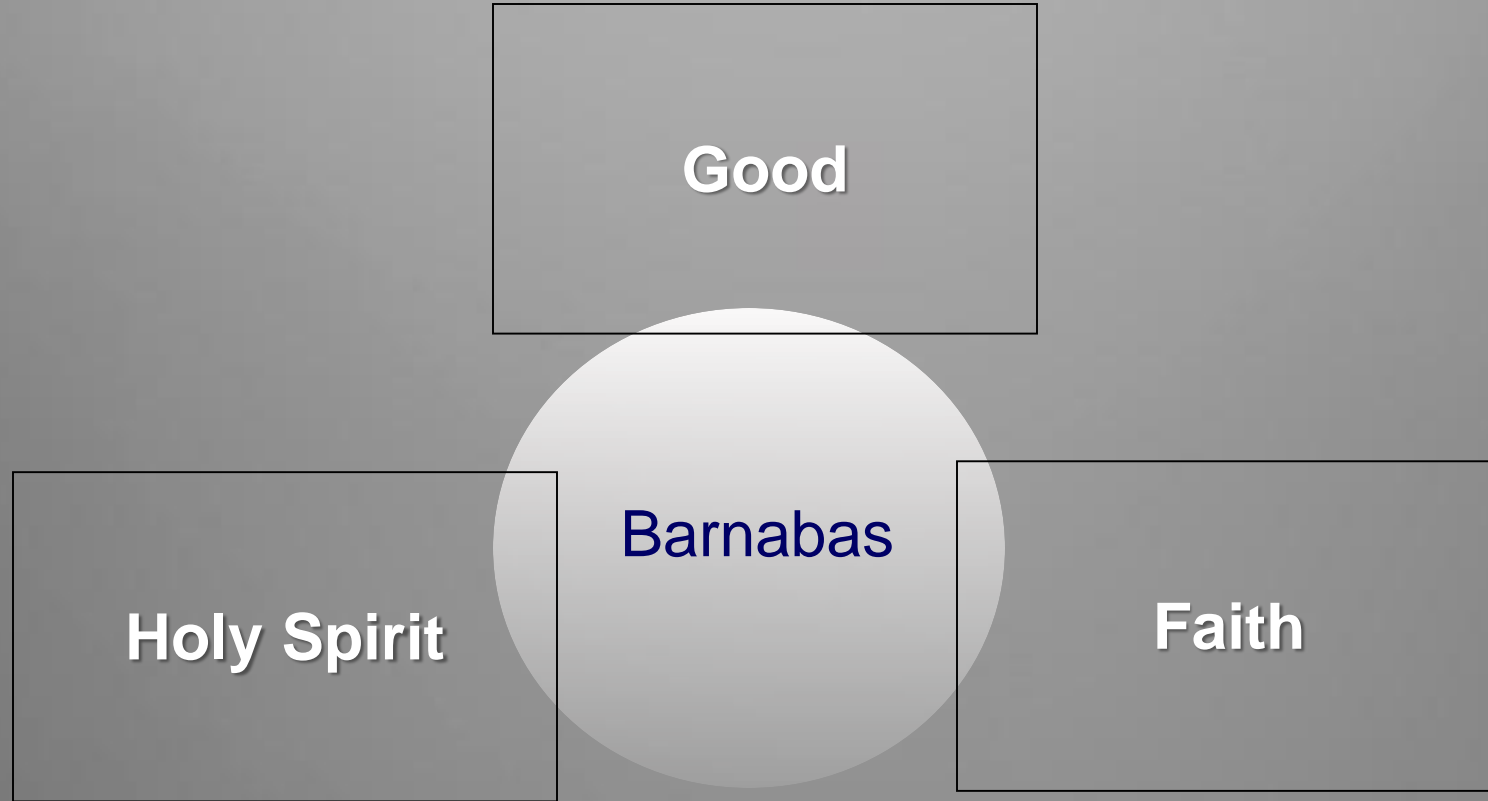
Even more about Barnabas



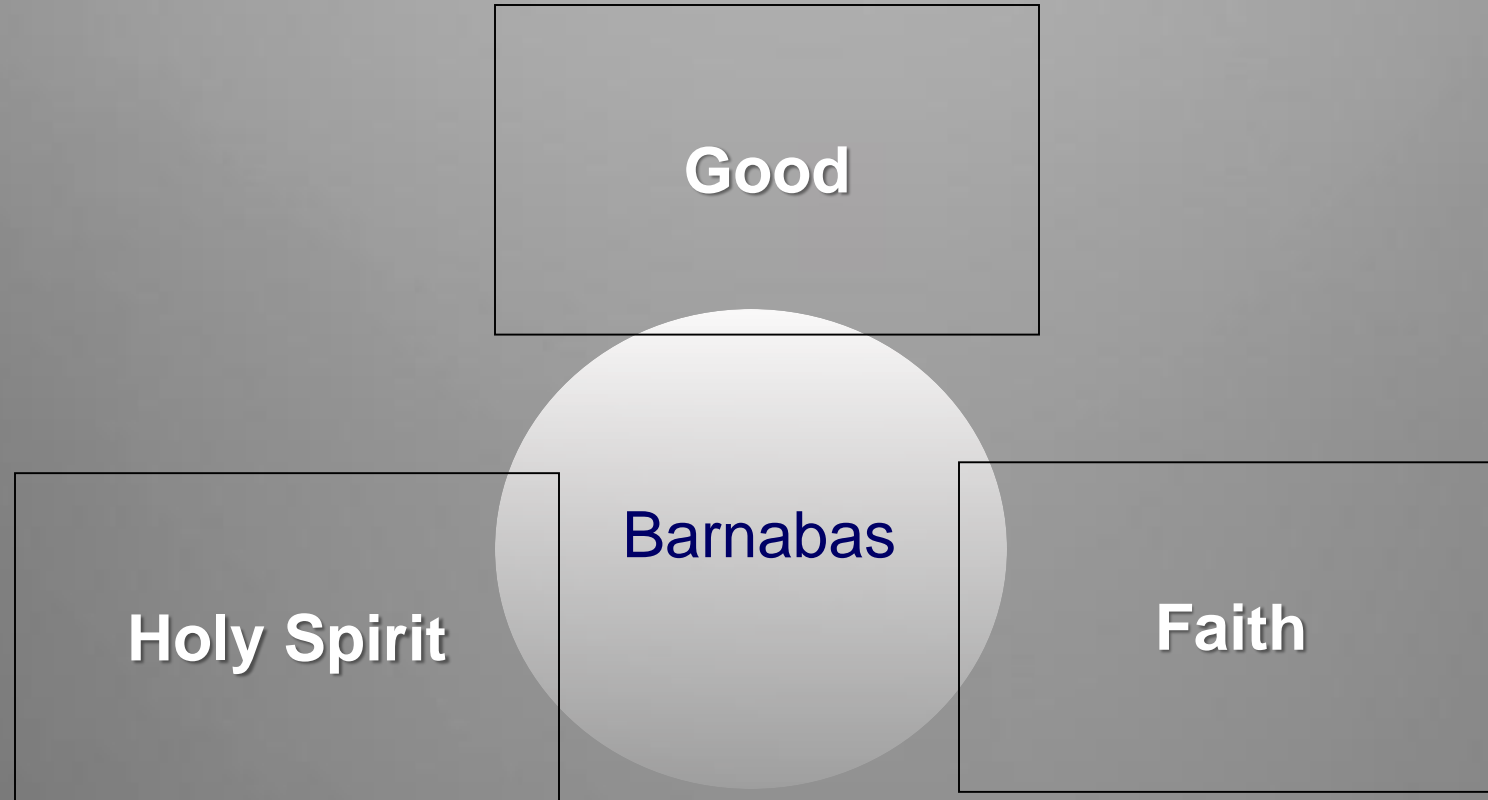
Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)



Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)



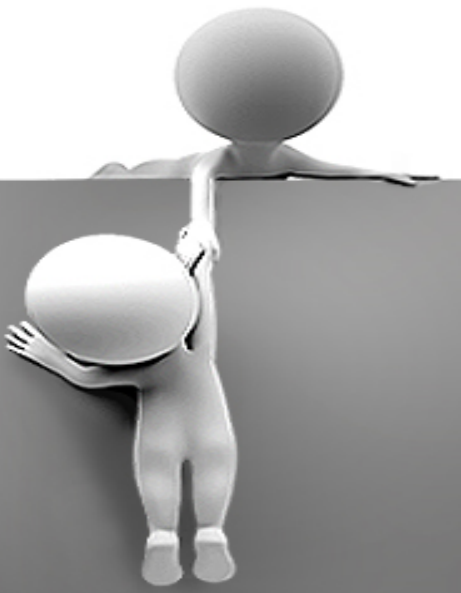
Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit
and faith (11:24)



Barnabas had a great faith in God, and by this faith the
Holy Spirit became powerful in his heart, and that the
result was a lot of practical goodness in his life

Six Reflections from the Life of Barnabas





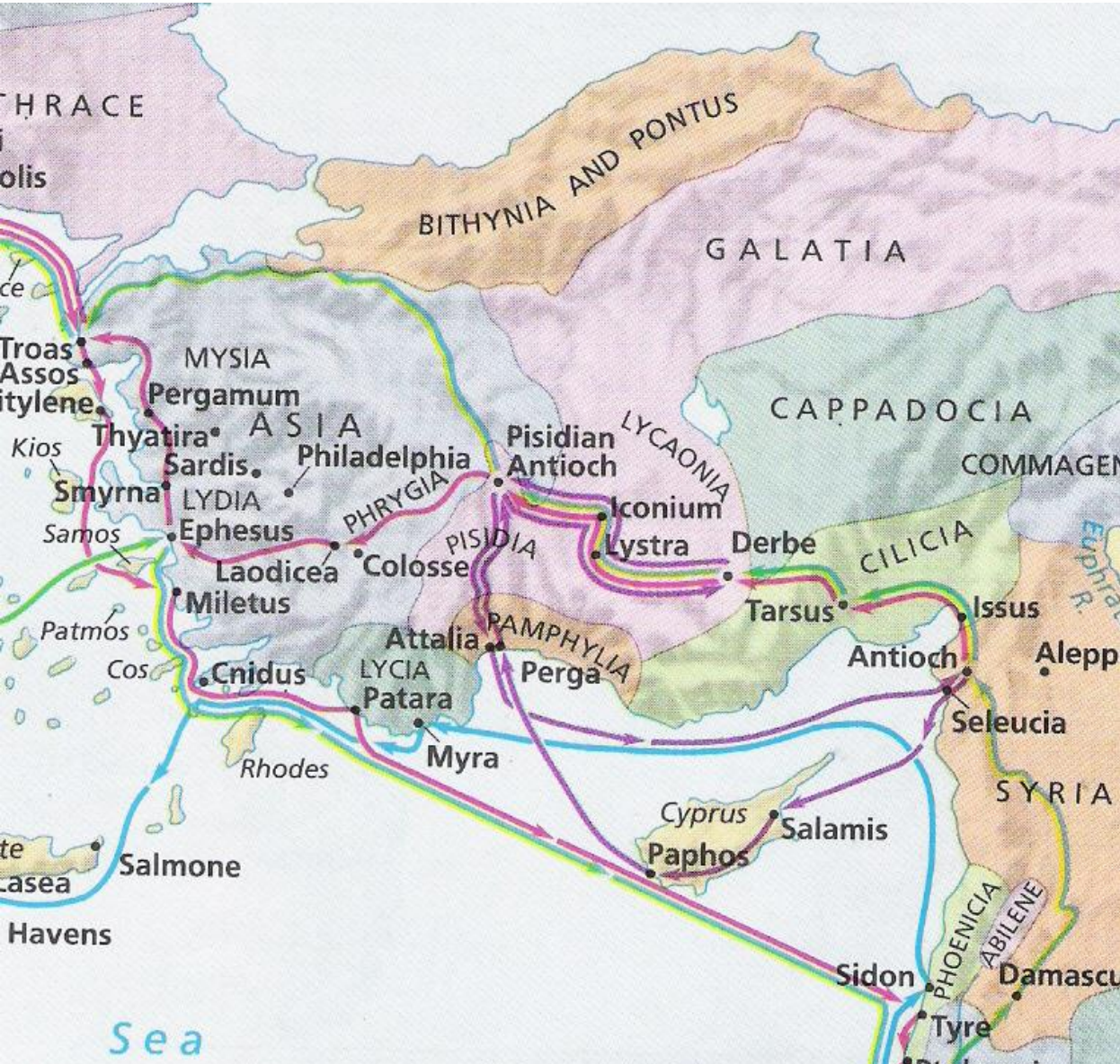
Reflections from the life of Barnabas

1. He is open to the grace of God

11:22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent *Barnabas* to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and *saw the evidence* of the grace of God, he was *glad* and *encouraged* them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

Barnabas is open to the grace of God



Why did they chose to send Barnabas and not anyone else?



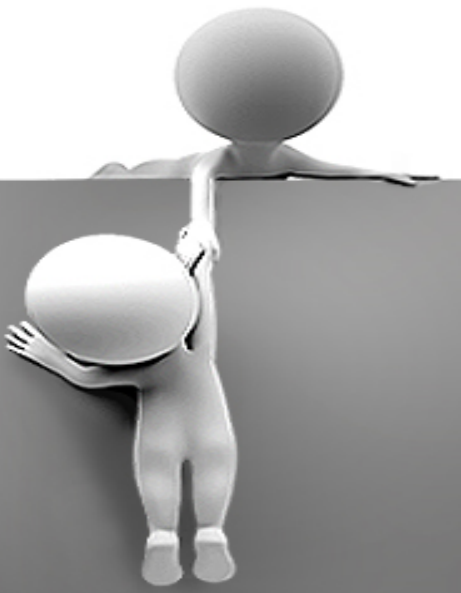
Barnabas is open to the grace of God

- Barnabas extend this openness to Paul (Acts 9:27-28)

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.

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)





Reflections from the life of Barnabas

1. He is open to the grace of God
2. He is an encourager of men

23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and *encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.*

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

Barnabas is an encourager of men

he sees the potential where others see failure

- Paul

Acts 9:29 He [Paul] talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

AC 11:25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.



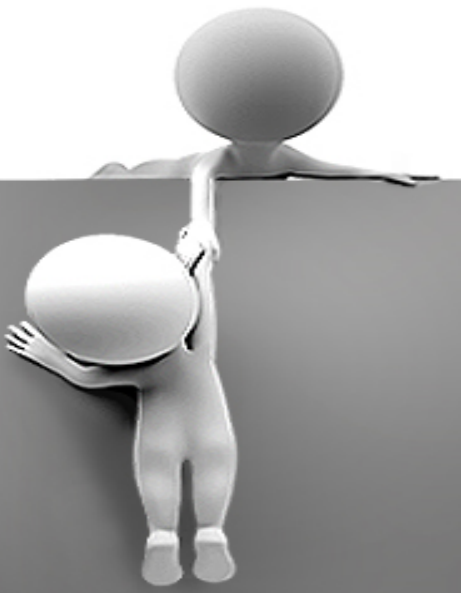
Barnabas is an encourager of men

he sees the potential where others see failure

- **The Jerusalem Church**

AC 11:27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.





Reflections from the life of Barnabas

1. He is open to the grace of God
2. He is an encourager of men
3. He is a mentor to leaders

because he knows the expansion of the work of God's grace depends on Godly leadership

Barnabas is a mentor to leaders



- Successful ministry in Antioch

Barnabas is a mentor to leaders

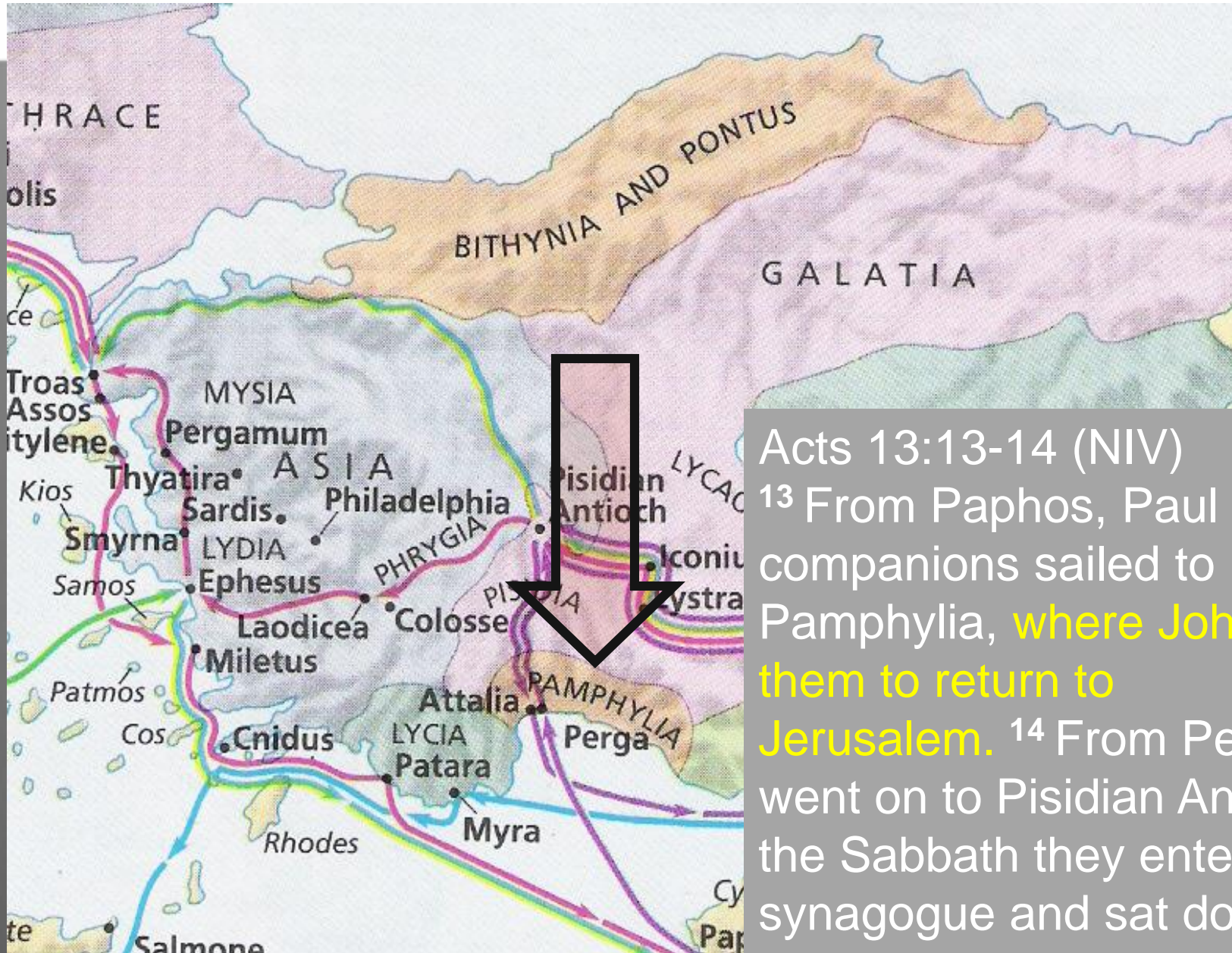


- **Saul of Tarsus**
 - Taking a risk by inviting him to join his ministry (Acts 11:25-26)
 - Going on a missionary journey (Acts 13)
 - Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:12)
- **Simeon, Lucius, Manaen (Acts 13:1)**
- **John Mark**

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)



Barnabas is a mentor to leaders



Acts 13:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down.

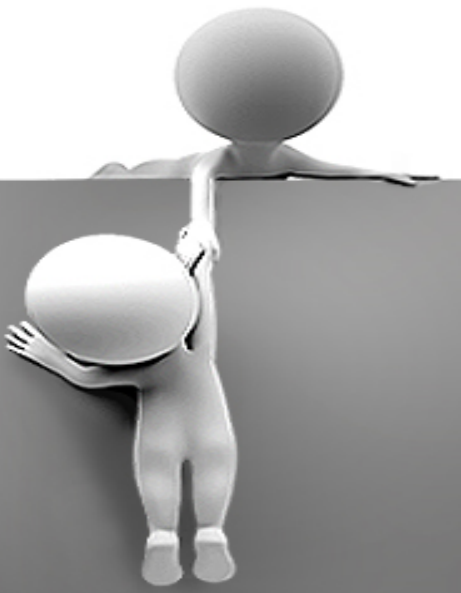


Barnabas is a mentor to leaders



- **Patience with John Mark**
 - Barnabas seem to focus on the need and potential of John Mark
 - Paul was focused on the demands and potential of the mission

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)



Reflections from the life of Barnabas

1. He is open to the grace of God
2. He is an encourager of men
3. He is a mentor to leaders
4. He is imperfect

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

Barnabas is imperfect/makes mistakes



- **The incident with Peter in Antioch
(Gal.2:11-13)**

GAL 2:11 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. **12** Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. **13** The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

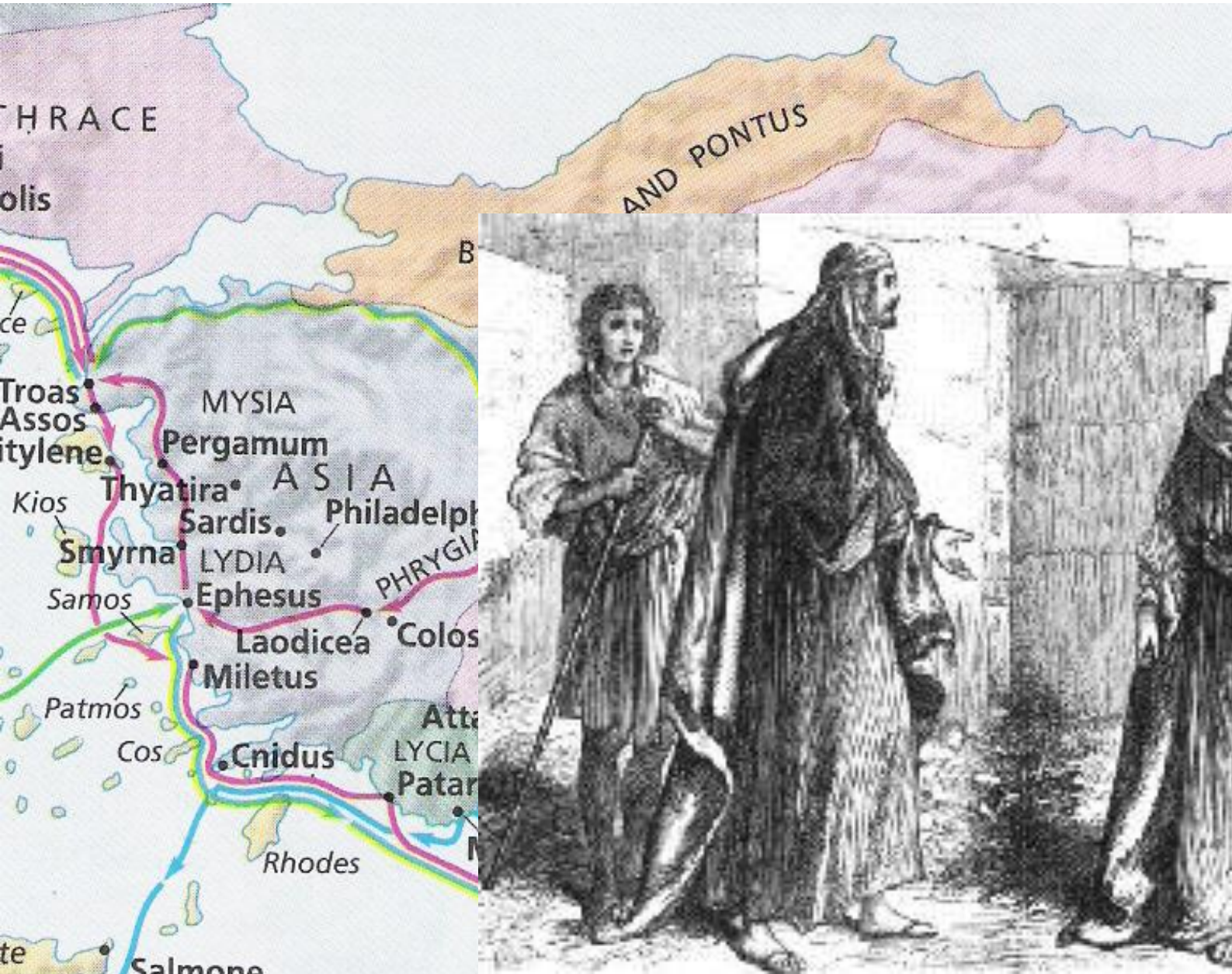
Barnabas is imperfect/makes mistakes



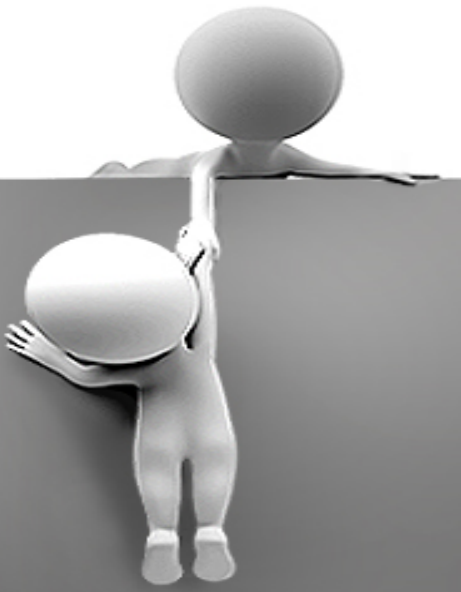
- **The incident with John Mark in Antioch (Acts 15: 37-41)**

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 brothers to the grace of the Lord. 41 He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Barnabas broke fellowship with Paul



15 years
old team
breakup



Reflections from the life of Barnabas

1. He is open to the grace of God
2. He is an encourager of men
3. He is a mentor to leaders
4. He is imperfect
5. He is a generous

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

Barnabas is a generous

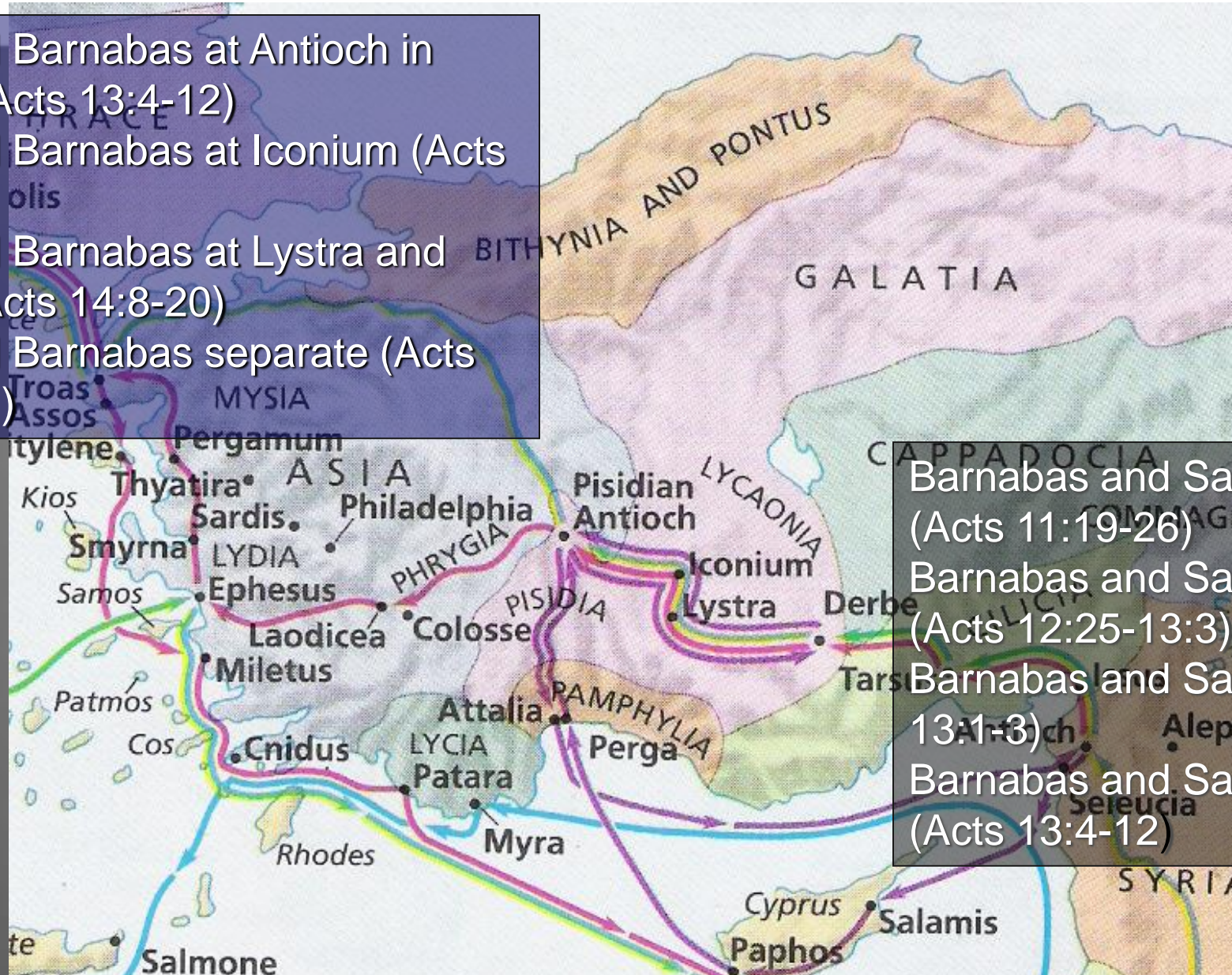


- **Generous with his wealth**
 - sold his land (Acts 4:36-37)
- **Generous with his standing in ministry**
 - need a lot of humility to share leadership

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

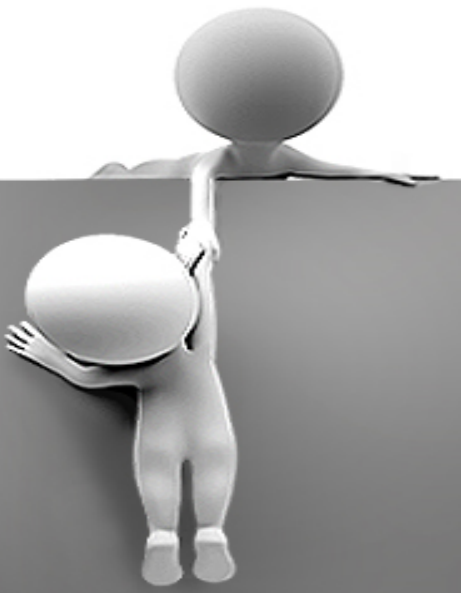
Barnabas is generous in ministry

Paul and Barnabas at Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 13:4-12)
Paul and Barnabas at Iconium (Acts 14:1-7)
Paul and Barnabas at Lystra and Derbe (Acts 14:8-20)
Paul and Barnabas separate (Acts 15:36-41)



Barnabas and Saul at Antioch (Acts 11:19-26)
Barnabas and Saul appointed (Acts 12:25-13:3)
Barnabas and Saul sent off (Acts 13:1-3)
Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus (Acts 13:4-12)





Reflections from the life of Barnabas

1. He is open to the grace of God
2. He is an encourager of men
3. He is a mentor to leaders
4. He is imperfect
5. He is a generous
6. He is highly respected

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

Barnabas is highly respected

- Paul



1CO 9:3 This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. 4 Don't we have the right to food and drink? 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? 6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

Barnabas is highly respected

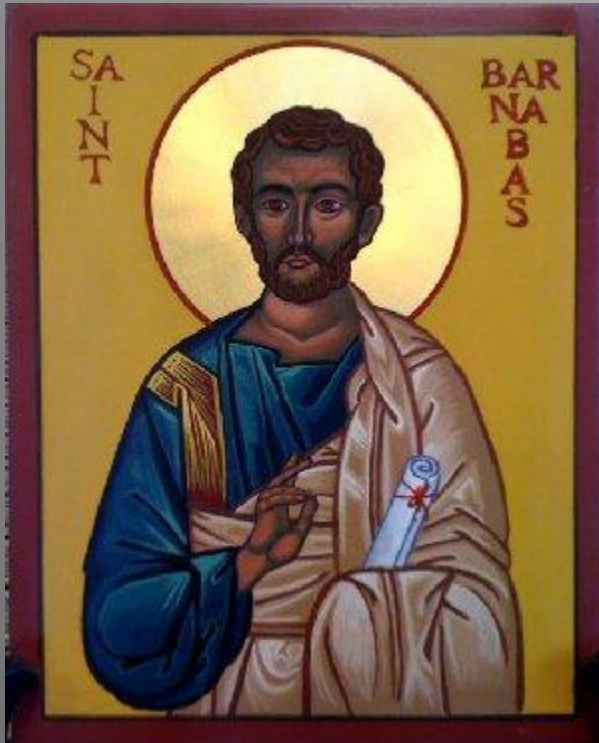
- Others



Calvin and Luther were convinced that 2 Corinthians 8:18–19 also referred to Barnabas: “With him (Titus) we are also sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel.”

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

Reflections on the life of Barnabas



Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)



Reconciliation between Paul and Mark



- 2 Tim 4:11

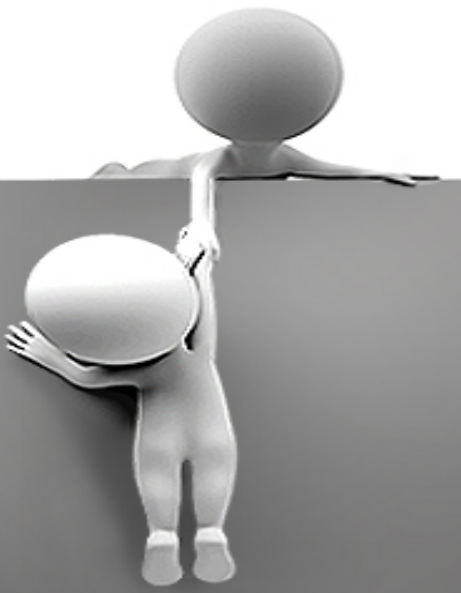
11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry

- Philemon 24

PHM 1:23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. 24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

Impact of Barnabas





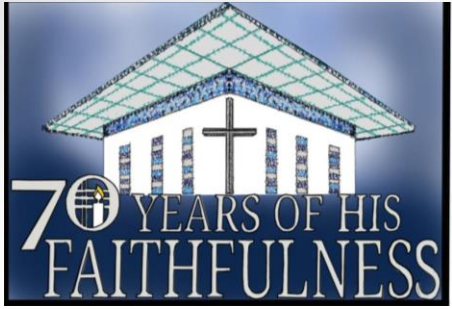
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Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (11:24)

Are you a good person, full of
the Holy Spirit and faith?





Will you be a Barnabas?