

## Acts of Jesus, Lesson 14: Open-Eyed Christians

### 1. We are going to be taking a look at a guy named Barnabas.

- I want to give you the recipe for a sour Christian experience and church life. Come to church for yourself, think only of yourself, gather spiritual things solely to expend on yourself.
- The Dead Sea is dead because it only takes, and never gives---Dead Sea Christian is no different
- We've got to be about giving ourselves away to keep the living water flowing in us.
- If you'll keep your eyes opened to people and their needs, you'll be amazed at the ministries you'll find to be involved in.

### 2. What got the Joseph the name Barnabas was the fact that he constantly had his eyes and his hands open to help those in need.

- We are first introduced to him in the minutes of the early church in Jerusalem. **Acts 4:32-37**
- He had his eyes open!
- The next place we see Barnabas in Scripture, we again see him with his eyes open.
- In Chapter 9 of Acts we read of the incredible conversion of Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus.
- Saul was of course a horrible persecutor of believers prior to his conversion and believers were quite reluctant to let him enter their ranks. **Acts 9:26**
- But Barnabas instead of seeing a murderer he saw through what caused fear and skepticism in others and saw someone who needed mercy and a friend. **Acts 9:27-28**
- Who believed in you when others would have written you off?
- Got to keep your eyes open!
- The third place we come across Barnabas in Acts he again demonstrates the need for this Opened-eyed ministry.
- He found God moving in great ways in Antioch and applied himself there so that the ministry there flourished: **Acts 11:23-24**
- But then he does something not many preachers would do **Acts 11:25-26.**
- God is blessing his ministry and with his eyes open he immediately says, "who can I share this blessing with?"
- When things are going well for us we need to immediately think of others we can share our success with.
- Successful in ministry? Who can you mentor?
- Walked along with the Lord? Who can you encourage to hang in there and give away your success to?
- Have a happy marriage and family find another you can encourage share your success with. A final place we find Barnabas he gives us yet another lesson about keeping our eyes open:
- **Acts 15:37-39**
  - It goes without saying that we need to forgive people who wrong us, but often times we need to give them not just forgiveness but second chance.
  - How do we treat those who fail? Who fall into sin?
  - Do we stand by them and restore them, or do we shoot our wounded?
  - John Mark turned out to be the writer of the gospel of Mark and even Paul later decided that Barnabas was right about Mark: **II Timothy 4:11**