



“The Most Important Ministry in a Growing Church” Part 2

Acts 11:19-30 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction – *The early church kept expanding northward to Antioch, where some Greeks believed the Gospel and along with others planted a church there. The church in Antioch is a great example of what God designed the church to be, and how He designed it to grow.*

I. The Ministry of Barnabas.

A. When Barnabas arrived in Antioch he had three responses.

1. He witnessed the grace of God.
2. He rejoiced.
3. He encouraged those who believed.

B. The name “Barnabas” means “son of encouragement.”

C. Barnabas had a ministry of encouragement/exhortation, from the Greek word “parakaleo.”

D. Parakaleo is speaking the truth with love.

II. Why the Parakaleo Ministry is Important.

- A. It is found between the ministries of evangelism and discipleship.
- B. Barnabas is encouraging believers to grow in the Lord and exhorting them to be faithful to the Lord.
- C. Look at how important his ministry was – “considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.” (11:24)

D. To grow spiritually, we need to be surrounded by people who are giving us truth wrapped in love.

E. The Parakaleo ministry is hard.

F. The Parakaleo ministry happens face to face in regular conversations.

III. How Do We Do This Ministry?

A. Luke tells us why Barnabas was good at this ministry.

B. Baranbas was a recipient of Jesus’ promise of the “Paraclete.”

Conclusion.