

Following is the outline from a sermon by Pastor Dave Tietjen at Evangel Baptist Church, Wheaton IL. (www.evbapt.org), part of an “encore” series of favorite sermons from previous years. Also available is the pdf file of the [PowerPoint® version](#) of the notes. Because of a problem with the audio recorder, there was no audio version this week.

Message Notes

“The Power of Encouragement”

Acts 11:19-26
July 25, 2010

Verbal Memories: Painful or Profitable

- ◆ **“You will never amount to anything.”**
- ◆ **“You’re fat.”**
- ◆ **“You’re more trouble than you’re worth.”**
or
- ◆ **“You know we’ll always be there for you.”**
- ◆ **“We’re so proud of you.”**
- ◆ **“You’re special.”**

Vital Movement:

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 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. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

(Acts 11:19-22 ESV)

- ◆ **Approached Cautiously**
 - ◆ **Philip, Peter**
- ◆ **Advanced Profoundly**
 - ◆ **Culturally**
 - ◆ **Geographically**

Valuable Asset: Barnabas’ Encouragement

Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

(Acts 4:36-37 ESV)

- ◆ **An Encourager Sees Opportunity Before Obstacles**
 - ◆ **Consider Antioch’s Position**
 - ◆ **Population Large**
 - ◆ **Commerce Active**
 - ◆ **Morals Corrupt**

- ◆ **Consider Antioch's Privilege**
 - ◆ **Christ's Mission Launched**
- ◆ **An Encourager Sees Potential in People**
 - ◆ **Unbelievers: Enemies or "Pre-Christians"**
 - ◆ **Truth Targeted Non-Jews**
 - ◆ **Unknown Ministry: Needs Validation**

The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. (Acts 11:22 ESV)
 - ◆ **Encouraging Endorsement Can Lead to Enlarged Influence**
 - ◆ **Rejection Stops Work**
 - ◆ **Reluctance Sinks Enthusiasm**
 - ◆ **Rejoicing Welcomes Participation and Invites Partnership**
 - ◆ **Examples**
 - ◆ **Dave Saw Invitation to Enter New Field**
 - ◆ **Willie Mays Found Perseverance to Stay in His Field**
- ◆ **An Encourager Exalts Others Before Self**
 - ◆ **Sees the Best for Situation**
 - ◆ **Seeks the Best for Situation**

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. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. (Acts 11:23-25 ESV)
 - ◆ **Serves the Best for Situation**

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. (Acts 11:26 ESV)

A Vision of Your Role

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. (Proverbs 25:11 ESV)

- ◆ **Who could You Encourage?**
 - ◆ **Someone Spiritually Confused**
 - ◆ **Someone Discouraged**
 - ◆ **Someone Fearful**
 - ◆ **Someone Anxious or Lonely**
 - ◆ **Someone Under Pressure**
- ◆ **How Could You Encourage?**
 - ◆ **Notice Something**
 - ◆ **Remember Something**
 - ◆ **Do Something**