

**IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson**

By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Member of Faculty, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, © Western Newspaper Union.

**Lesson for August 25**

**BARNABAS**

**LESSON TEXT**—Acts 4:36, 37; 11:19-26.  
**GOLDEN TEXT**—He was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.—Acts 11:24.

**PRIMARY TOPIC**—Barnabas' Love Gift.

**JUNIOR TOPIC**—The Friendly Barnabas.

**INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC**—How Barnabas Used His Possessions.

**YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC**—In Partnership With God.

The explanatory title given by the lesson committee, "Barnabas (A Consecrated Man of Means)," is not entirely satisfactory, as it emphasizes only one of his many excellent qualities.

**I. Barnabas the Man (Acts 4:36).**

His original name was Joseph. When he became a Christian he was by the apostles renamed Barnabas, which doubtless signifies the change from the old life to the new. This was a common custom, e. g., Simon to Peter and Saul to Paul. The name means "son of prophecy" or "son of exhortation and consolation." This shows not only the nature and spirit of Barnabas but indicates that he possessed a gift of hortatory preaching.

**II. Barnabas the Philanthropist (Acts 4:37).**

So fully had the divine love permeated the very being of Barnabas, that, seeing the need of his fellow believers, he sold his property and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. He was in no sense obliged to do this as there was no such binding law of a community of goods in the early Church. Private ownership of property was recognized (Acts 5:4).

**III. Barnabas the Christian Statesman (Acts 9:26-30; 11:19-30).**

1. Befriended Saul (9:26, 27). After Saul's conversion he came to Jerusalem and tried to join himself to the disciples, but they were afraid of him. Barnabas saw that Saul was really a converted man. Being a good man he could see there was good in Saul. To be able to judge personality is the first mark of a Christian statesman.

2. Sent to Antioch (Acts 11:22-24). Violent persecutions of the Church sent many disciples to the regions about the Mediterranean sea. As they went they preached the gospel and churches were established. The most conspicuous of these was at Antioch, the capital of Syria, becoming the most important center in the spread of Christianity. Everything went well as long as the gospel was preached to the Jews only, but certain of these disciples deliberately preached Christ among the Greeks. They announced to them that God had become incarnated in a man, that that man, after a ministry of love and grace, had died a sacrificial death on the cross, and that salvation was now offered to all who would accept him.

Tidings having reached the ears of the Jerusalem Church that a great work of grace was expressing itself through the Grecians who were preaching the Lord Jesus Christ at Antioch, Barnabas was sent to look after it. Barnabas was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and faith. He, therefore, had spiritual discernment and broad sympathy. Those who have grace in themselves will be able to see grace in others. He exhorted them and urged them forward in their work.

3. Goes after Saul (11:25, 26). The work at Antioch so prospered that help was needed; therefore, Barnabas went after Saul. Barnabas thus introduced Saul to his great work as the apostle to the Gentiles. The gifts of both of these men were needed on that field. Different temperaments when brought into harmony by God's grace are needed in the church.

4. Disciples called Christians first in Antioch (v. 26). After a year of teaching by Paul and Barnabas the name "Christian" was given to the disciples. Observe that the name was associated with the teaching. Paul taught the vital oneness of the believer with Christ; therefore, it was natural that the disciples should be called Christians. The notion that the name "Christian" was given in derision has no factual basis.

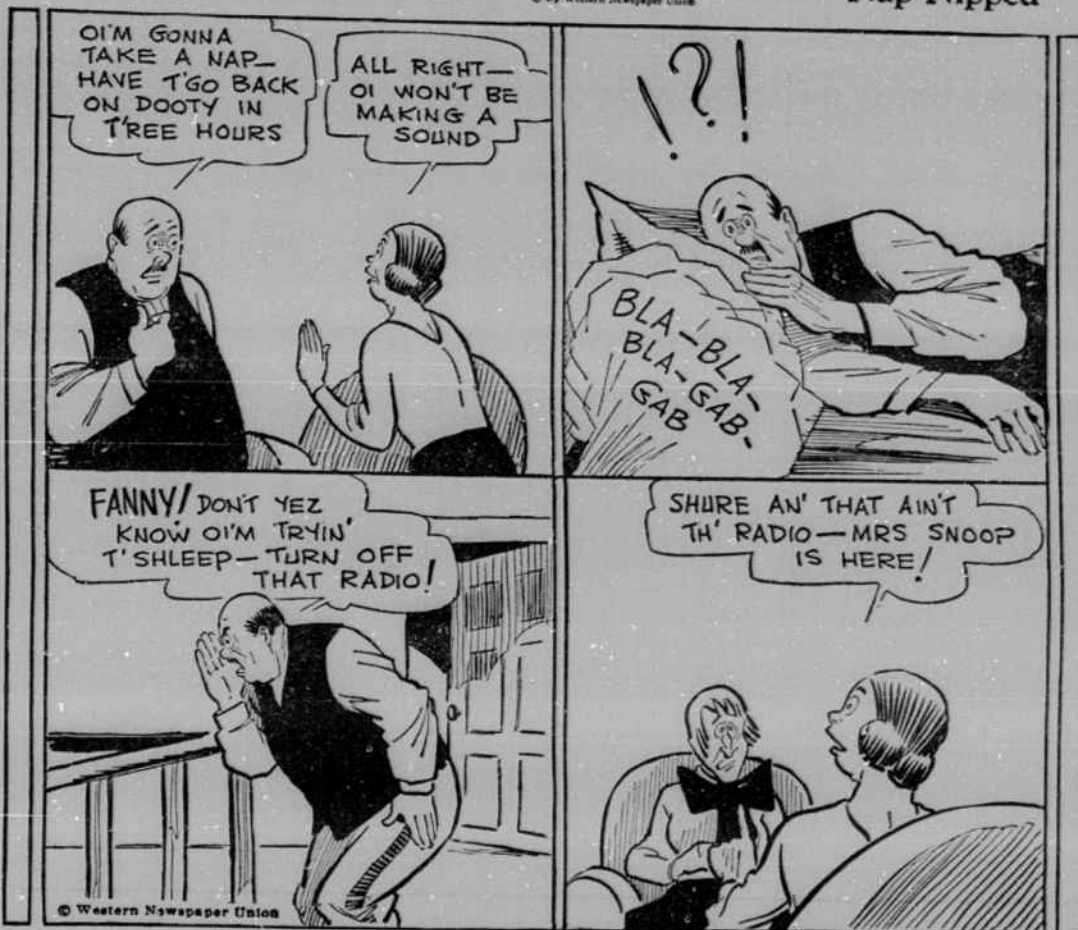
**IV. Barnabas the Dispenser of Alms (vv. 27-30).** Because of the oneness of Christians with Christ and with one another, the distress of the brethren at Jerusalem must be relieved by the gifts of believers at Antioch. The Spirit of God, through Agabus, made known the coming dearth which was to prevail throughout all the world. The disciples were therefore moved, according to their ability, to send relief unto the brethren in Judea. These gifts had a powerful effect in removing the suspicions of the brethren at Jerusalem.

**OUR COMIC SECTION**

**FINNEY OF THE FORCE**

By Ted O'Loughlin  
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**Nap Nipped**



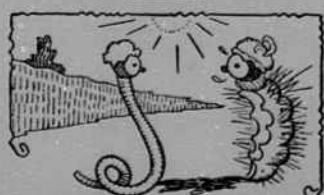
**THE FEATHERHEADS**

By Osborne  
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**Negative Beauty**



**THAT'S SOMETHING**



Miss Caterpillar—Miss Worm, I envy you this hot weather.  
Miss Worm—How so?  
Miss Caterpillar—You don't have to wear a fur coat all summer.

**Consistent Courtesy**

"Why do you laugh at Mr. Smuggins' insane jokes?"  
"I know he means well," said Miss Cayenne, "and I see no reason for being impolite merely because he is un-funny."

**A Balanced Output**

Agriculture Teacher—Why is it that cream costs more than milk?  
City Freshman—Probably because

it's so much harder for the cow to sit on such a small bottle.

**Social Drawbacks**

Bobby and Jane, small neighbors, were quarreling about the social standing of their respective families.  
"Why, your dad and mother were married by a justice of the peace," Bobby taunted.  
"Yeah," retorted Jane, hotly, "and from the racket that comes from your house, I betcha your ma and pa were married by the secretary of war."—Capper's Weekly.

**Discouraged**

Housewife—Don't you dare bring me any more of that milk. It's positively blue.  
Farmer—It ain't my fault, ma'm. Any cow would get downhearted with the price of milk as low as it is.

**Just Careful**

Neighbor—Is this your baseball, Joe?  
Joe—Any windows or anything broken?  
Neighbor—No.  
Joe—Thanks. It's mine.

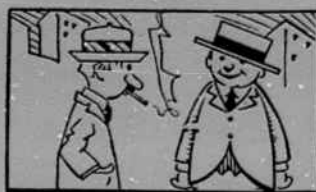
**Old Stamping Ground**

Summer Visitor—That old hog keeps trying to come into my room. He must have taken a fancy to me.  
Farmer's Son—No. That's his room during the winter.—Washington Post.

**Acid Test**

Cross-tie Charlie—I see by th' papers that the depression is over.  
Thumbing Tom—You wouldn't think so, fella, if you could taste some of th' pies that are being set out to cool.

**CAN'T TAKE IT**



"My wife hates darning and mend-ing."  
"So does mine. Just now I can't even get her to patch up a quarrel."

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**IN GOOD CONSCIENCE**

"What are you going to say when the congress meets?"

"I am going to avoid the complications of world economies," answered Senator Sorghum, "and concentrate on a notorious matter of plain fact and simple justice—votes for Washington, D. C."

**Distribution**

"Do you favor lotteries?"  
"No," answered Senator Sorghum.  
"They are a means of distributing wealth."  
"But they don't change the financial system. Those who take the rake-off still hold the advantage."

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