

DAY 25

Grace-Revealers: Legendary Leader 3

Then he went to Tarsus to search for Saul, and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught large numbers. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

Acts 11:25–26

Leadership Affirmation

I constantly develop leaders by providing them opportunities to serve others and grow in their leadership and ministry skills.

Legend-making leaders are grace-revealers. Not only do they love people and take risks on others, but they are also quick to show grace.

Saul had been consenting in the persecution that led to the scattering of the early church to other cities. Some of those believers planted a church in Antioch. When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard about the growing church there, they dispatched Barnabas to bring a report about what the Lord was doing. Acts 11:23 records that when he arrived at Antioch, he saw “the grace of God,” and he was glad.

Grace is an amazing term. It speaks of our salvation. We all, like sheep, have gone astray. But God shows us grace in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). When Barnabas arrived, he saw the goodness of God on full display. Legend-making leaders rejoice when they see God’s grace at work. But they are also eager to *show* grace to others, enlisting and encouraging them to do ministry in the name of Jesus.

Barnabas could have been bitter at Saul for wreaking havoc on the lives of people that Barnabas loved. But he saw grace at work and rejoiced. He immediately went to Tarsus to bring Saul to Antioch to show him how God had turned what Saul and others had meant for evil into a greater good for the Kingdom of God. This illustrates the story of another Joseph: what his brothers meant for evil, God meant for good (Genesis 50:20).

For a year, Barnabas and Saul taught “a great many people.” It was at Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:26). As a consequence of Barnabas’s investment in others and the amazing grace he showed, we are called Christians to this day. Legend-making leaders are grace-revealers.

Prayer for Protection

Lord, I refuse to be controlled by prejudice when someone You call seems an unlikely candidate to me.