

DAY 28

Who's Your One?

There was also a prophetess, Anna. ... She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers. At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:36–38

Leadership Affirmation

I believe God uses seemingly insignificant people to make lasting impressions of God's grace on others.

It must be obvious by now. Though Paul is my hero, I view Barnabas as *The Greatest Leader You've Never Heard Of*. Unless you drill down into his life, you may miss it.

Sitting at the intersection between Egypt, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, and Mesopotamia, Antioch was one of the most strategic cities in the ancient world. The church planted there was strategic in the rapid expansion of the Christian movement. Barnabas, a leader in the evangelistic and missionary growth of this church, became a catalyst for the first church-planting movement. As the team leader of the first mission trip, he either directly or indirectly accounts for at least fourteen church plants, probably more.

Then, because Barnabas invested in and elevated his team member Paul, we see his generational influence through Paul on other leaders such as Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus, Silas, Priscilla, Aquilla, Luke, and others. When he and Paul created new teams for the second missionary journey, Barnabas chose John Mark.

From Paul, we get thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. His protégé Luke contributed the early church history we call The Acts of the Apostles as a sequel to his Gospel. John Mark, of course, wrote the Gospel of Mark, which many believe heavily influenced the Gospels penned by Matthew and Luke.

Equally buried in the pages of the New Testament, an aged widow named Anna encouraged a young married couple on their first visit to the Temple to dedicate their newborn son. She not only spoke encouragement to this young couple, but she also became one of the first evangelists in the city of Jerusalem, where the first church would be planted some thirty years later. Whether speaking into the life of a young couple or mentoring a man who becomes an outstanding leader, God is calling you to be a legacy-making leader of others!

Prayer for Protection

Father, lead me to value the many servants of Christ whom some see as "lower rowers" in God's family of faith.