

# Being An Influence

## (Acts 11:19-26)

### Introduction

You all know that person. When you question your decisions, your perspective, your abilities, your reality, your very core beliefs, they are the one that you go to right the ship. They seem to know what to say or not to say. They seem to know how to coax the best out of you. They seem to know how to correct without crushing and direct without destroying.

We all need someone like that to speak into our lives. We all need an encourager.

Usually this most valuable individual does not see themselves as “that person”, because encouragement is at their core. It’s who they are. YET, THEY POSSESS GREAT INFLUENCE!

Now on the flip-side. You’ve been around that person who is a discourager. They are critical. They are constantly negative. They look for fault. They look for ways to tear down. THEY TOO POSSESS INFLUENCE, but not the kind you want to be known for.

Today, we are focusing on the Bible personality of Barnabas. He is an encourager. In fact his nick name is “the encourager.”

**Contextualize sermon text (Acts 11).** Antioch was a very sinful city. The Greek culture prevailed in the metropolitan area. Antioch was third only to Rome and Alexandria in prominence at that time. In addition, the temple of Daphne, a Greek ‘goddess’ was located near the city. Chariot racing, gambling, and debauchery were top priority in the persistent pursuit of pleasure.

**Contextualize this sermon.**

**The main challenge of this message** is for you to expand your influence for Christ by seeing and encouraging the grace of God in the lives of those around you.

## **I. A Church Influencing Its Community (11:19-26)**

### **A) The setting (11:19-22)**

(The setting of Acts 11:19 is roughly 15 years after the persecution of Stephen.)

### **B) The identification (11:23-25)**

### **C) The implication**

(The Christians of Antioch were identified as “little Christ’s” implying that they reflected Jesus well to others.)

## **II. A Man Influencing His Church (v. 23-24)**

What made Barnabas such an influential person? He was characterized by encouragement!!

### **A) He was good (v. 24)**

(Barnabas valued character above results and people above progress.)

### **B) He was filled with Holy Spirit (v. 24, Gal. 6:6-8)**

### **C) He filled with faith (v. 24)**

(Barnabas believed that the gospel could change anyone. That was more than simple optimism, but more a belief that God would do what he said he would do.)

**Application: Be a person of encouragement!**

### **III. A Church Influencing The World (11:27-30; 13:1-3)**

**A) Generous living (11:27-30; 12:6-7)**

**B) Generous with leaders (13:1-3)**

### **Conclusion**