

What Made Joseph a Good Man?

Who do you think of first when you hear the Bible name “Joseph?”

Maybe the son of _____ (Genesis 37-50)?

Maybe the husband of _____ (Matthew 1:18-25)?

Maybe the potential replacement for _____ (Acts 1:23-26)?

Tonight we want to focus on the Joseph renamed _____ (Acts 4:36-37). In Acts 11:24 he is described by the Holy Spirit as a “good man.” But why? Acts 4:36-37 tells us.

I. Joseph was a _____.

- A. The Jerusalem church was growing at a rapid pace in the first century (Acts 2:41; 4:4).
 1. Many of these people coming to the Lord were extremely poor. Some had even lost everything because of their new found faith in Jesus.
 2. In response to these benevolent needs, the early Christians shared their resources with one another (Acts 4:32-37).
 3. Joseph (Barnabas) owned a piece of land, sold it, and then brought the money to the apostles so they could distribute it to needy brethren (Acts 4:36-37).
- B. We are to be like Joseph!
 1. This is why God wants us to get a job and work (Ephesians 4:28).
 2. What can we give?
 - a. _____ (Ephesians 4:28)
 - b. _____ (Galatians 5:13; 6:2).

II. Joseph was an _____.

- A. This is why the apostles changed his name (Acts 4:36).
 1. The name _____ translated means _____.
 2. The word consolation comes from the Greek word “parakelsis.”
 3. It is the idea of one who comforts and encourages.
 4. It is similar to the word used to describe the Holy Spirit (John 14:16).
- B. Never again would he be called Joseph (Acts 9:27; 11:30; 13:1-3; 15:2, 36-41).
 1. Other examples of this include...
 - a. Judas - _____ (John 17:12)
 - b. James and John - _____ (Mark 3:17)
 2. What if your name had been changed by Jesus or the apostles? What would you be renamed? Joseph’s name was changed to Barnabas because he was a great encourager of God’s people.
 3. Who did Barnabas encourage?
 - a. _____ (Acts 9:26-28)
 - b. _____ (Acts 11:22-26)
 - c. _____ (Acts 15:36-39)
 - d. _____ (Acts 11:26)

Conclusion: Joseph was a good man...

...but he wasn’t _____ (Galatians 2:13).

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