

# UNSHAKEABLE

## REACHING UP

Acts 1, 4, 9, 13 & 15 (ESV)

May 12, 2024

Jon Field, Lead Pastor

## MESSAGE NOTES

***“The action of giving someone support, confidence or hope.” – Encouragement Definition***

**Developing a Life of Encouragement:**

- **By reaching for generosity in the face of needs**

*Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

– Acts 4:36 – 37 (ESV)

- **By reaching for grace in the face of failure**

*And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. – Acts 9:26 (ESV)*

*But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, Who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. – Acts 9:27 – 28 (ESV)*

*All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. – John 6:37 (ESV)*

- **By reaching for praise in the face of criticism**

*Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.*

– Acts 11:19 – 20 (ESV)

*And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. – Acts 11:21 – 22 (ESV)*

*When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ... – Acts 11:23 (ESV)*

***“My men can go a week without food, but they can't go a day without encouragement.”***

– George Washington



- **By reaching for time invested instead of our own advancement**

*... For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. ... – Acts 11:26 (ESV)*

*So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul. – Acts 11:29 – 30 (ESV)*

*But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. – Acts 15:35 (ESV)*

*And He appointed twelve (whom He also named apostles) so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach ... – Mark 3:14 (ESV)*

- **By reaching for healing instead of abandonment**

*Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, ... – Acts 13:13 (ESV)*

*Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other ... – Acts 15:37 – 39 (ESV)*

*Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.  
– 2 Timothy 4:11 (ESV)*

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share a story of how you observed a mom who brought encouragement to her family. And talk about why moms are such vital influencers in our world.
- How did God speak to you from His Word this week?
- Pastor Jon defined encouragement as *"The action of giving someone support, confidence or hope."* How would you define encouragement and why is it so important to our growth in Christ?
- Why is generosity such a powerful form of encouragement? How does Christ reflect this aspect of encouragement to us?
- Read Acts 9:26 – 28. How was Barnabas' welcoming of Paul into the early church an example of showing grace in the face of failure? Who is an example of doing that in your life?
- Read Acts 11:23. Barnabas was used by God to encourage the early church in Antioch. Why is *"praise and gladness"* connected to the teaching of God's Word such a key part of helping others grow spiritually?
- Read Mark 3:14. Jesus invested time in His disciples. He appoints them, names them, spends time with them and then sends them out. Who might God be leading you to invest time in, either to help them reach for Christ or to encourage them in their faith?
- Read Acts 15:37 – 39 and 2 Timothy 4:1. Barnabas believed in John Mark even after he abandoned Paul earlier during one of his missionary journeys. Mark went on to write the Gospel of Mark in the New Testament. Who is someone God is leading you to have the *"long view"* of with a spirit of encouragement? Who has believed in you and had the *"long view"* of who you are becoming?