Interview with Barnabas

CHARACTERS: Host, Barnabas, Agabus, Peter
COSTUMES: Biblical or modern
PROPS: none specified
SETTING: TV interview show
RUN TIME: 4 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 4:36-5:11, 9:26-30, 11:19-26, 13:1-14:28, 15:1-41, Gal. 2:11-14
FK reading level: 6.2

HOST: Welcome Joseph the Levite, AKA Barnabas, to our show. What does the nickname Barnabas mean?

BARNABAS: It means son of encouragement.

HOST: Tell us about your B. C. life, before Christ.

BARNABAS: I was a Levite so I pretty much had dedicated my life to God.

HOST: So being a Christian wasn't that much different?

BARNABAS: It was very different. Being under grace instead of a bunch of laws and rules no one could keep was a complete change for me.

HOST: Plus it seems to have required much travel on your part.

BARNABAS: Yes, I ended up traveling all over the world to spread the gospel.

HOST: Let's welcome our next guest, Simon Peter. *(Peter enters and shakes hands, hugs Barnabas)* Peter, what can you tell us about Barnabas?

PETER: Besides being a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, he's what I consider a hinge person.

HOST: Hinge person?

PETER: Someone who opens doors. Like Andrew opened the door for me to meet Jesus, Barnabas was always opening doors, hearts and wallet for God. Thus a hinge person.

HOST: Tell us about the wallet.

PETER: Soon after Jesus resurrection, all the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was theirs alone but instead shared everything they had. People who owned houses or land would sell them to provide for those who needed. Barnabas sold a field he owned and brought the money to us to distribute. Not only did his act help others, his example encouraged many to do the same.

HOST: How about doors?

PETER: After Stephen was killed, the disciples were scattered and carried the good news of Jesus resurrection all over. Many Gentiles in Antioch believed so we sent Barnabas, to Antioch.

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HOST: What did he do there?

PETER: What Barnabas does best, encouraged them. A great number of people in Antioch were brought to the Lord. Bit of trivia here, Antioch is the first place we were called Christians.

HOST: Did Barnabas have help?

PETER: Then Barnabas brought Saul to help him. He was a great mentor, a great encourager.

HOST: *(to BARNABUS)* Peter compared you to his brother Andrew because just as he brought Peter to Jesus, you brought Paul into the fellowship of believers. Was that difficult?

BARNABAS: Yes. When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. People knew he approved of Stephen being stoned to death. He also had persecuted the church by throwing many Christians in jail. People were reluctant to accept him.

HOST: Why weren't you?

BARNABAS: I had talked to Ananias, the person who restored Saul's sight and baptized him. Ananias told me what God said about Saul, that he was God's chosen instrument to proclaim God's name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. If God chose him, I would be foolish not to accept and help him

HOST: So how did you convince people Paul was the real deal?

BARNABAS: I told the apostles how Saul had seen the Lord, how the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

HOST: But didn't they kick him out of Jerusalem?

BARNABAS: No. There was a plot to kill him so we sent him off to Tarsus for his own safety.

HOST: Let's welcome our next guest, Agabus the prophet. *(Agabus enters and shakes hands, hugs Barnabas)* Agabus, how do you know Barnabas?

AGABUS: I met him when I came down to Antioch from Jerusalem to warn them that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world.

HOST: How did they take the news?

AGABUS: The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. Because Barnabas had proven to us back in Jerusalem God's work was more important than money, we chose him to take out gift to Jerusalem.

(OPTIONAL: commercial break – host says they are cutting to a commercial, add in an announcement or advertisement of your own, then return to programming with AGABUS and PETER off stage).

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