

## *People of the Bible*

### Barnabas

Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus whose last name was Joses. His name means “son of exhortation. He sold some land and gave the proceeds to the early Christian community in Jerusalem (Acts 4:36-37).

St. Paul informs us that he was a cousin of John Mark (Colossians 4:10). Barnabas was sent by the Jerusalem Church to oversee the young Church in Antioch (Acts 11:22). While there, he went to Tarsus and brought Paul back to Antioch to help him (Acts 11:25-26).

It was this Church in Antioch that commissioned and sent Barnabas and Paul on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:2-3). When it was time for the second missionary, however, Barnabas and Paul disagreed about taking along John Mark. Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus; Paul took Silas and headed north through Syria and Cilicia (Acts 15:36-41). However, in his epistles Paul speaks highly of Barnabas (1 Cor. 9:6; Gal. 2:1, 9,13; Col. 4:10)

Nothing more is known of the activities of Barnabas, except that he was apparently known to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 9:6). Tradition relates that Barnabas died a martyr's death in Cyprus by being stoned.