

I Have Decided 3

February 26, 2017 | mediaatvictory.com

We are all called to make a difference.

Jude 1:22 (KJV) – ²² And on some have compassion, making a difference

3 ingredients to make a difference:

1. Finding your place
2. Serving
3. The harvest

Finding your place:

I Corinthians 11:29-30 (NKJV/GWT) – ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ This is the reason [not discerning the Lord's body] why many of you are weak and sick and quite a number of you have died.

I Corinthians 12:21 (GWT) – ²¹ An eye can't say to a hand, "I don't need you!" Or again, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

I Corinthians 12:27 (GWT) – ²⁷ You are Christ's body and each of you is an individual part of it.

We need each other to find our place.

Serving:

There is a difference between simply seeing a need and meeting it and finding your place and serving. Until you “find your place” and serve, you will never make a difference. Your harvest is connected to your serving.

What will they call you?

Acts 4:36-37 (NIV) – ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Barnabas enters as “an encourager” and “a giver.”

Barnabas took risks by choosing to believe in people that others had written off.

Acts 9:26-28 (NIV) – ²⁶ When he (Saul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

Barnabas fought for people who were viewed as failures.

Acts 15:36-41 (NIV) – ³⁶ Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

The harvest:

Barnabas was right about Mark.

II Timothy 4:11 (MSG) – ¹¹ Luke is the only one here with me. Bring Mark with you; he'll be my right-hand man

Paul wrote 13 books of the New Testament. Mark wrote the gospel of Mark. None of that may have happened if Barnabas had not taken a risk on these people, if he had not served them in love.

Think about this: who are your "Pauls" and "Marks" and how can you be a Barnabas to them?