

Episode 100

“When Barnabas arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”

- Acts 11.23

I absolutely love this verse!

A few years ago, I stepped in to lead youth at 3Ci. For a while, Friday nights had been left without clear leadership and input, and so I put up my hand to help where I could. I soon discovered I was way out of my depth. I was old, out of touch with a much younger generation, and the battles they were fighting seemed way beyond my pay grade! So much had changed since I was last involved in youth, and I wasn't ready for it. It felt like I pitched up on Friday nights to die, and when I drove home at midnight I didn't feel any better.

That's when Rory saw me limping and unpacked this verse and set me free!

In an earlier NIV translation, it says “when Barnabas saw the evidence of grace, he was overjoyed.” My personality, however, is more aware of what areas still need work, how we could be strategic with our involvement at schools, and what atmosphere we wanted to create in order to attract non-believers. Since these took time to implement and perfect, I was always dissatisfied and often left disappointed. Barnabas, on the other hand only preoccupied himself with what the grace of God had done.

We can look at our spouse through judgemental eyes, or we can celebrate the evidence of grace. We can look at our bank accounts with disappointment and disbelief, or we can worship God for the evidence of grace. We can shake our fists at a leadership's ineptitude, or we can take a moment to appreciate the evidence of grace.

Truth be told, where we see the evidence of grace, we see the evidence of God. And where we see the evidence of God, you can be sure that he is up to something, building, and blessing, and moving, and making. That, therefore, is where we should apply ourselves, set our focus, and get involved. And, before you know it, what was impossible for man will be made possible by God.

ONE33