# [[Friends Of Paul: Barnabas Part 1](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/25/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-2-paul-and-barnabas-working-together/)](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/23/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-1/)

[Read Acts 9:26-31](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/25/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-2-paul-and-barnabas-working-together/)

[After fleeing Damascus where the Jews had tried to kill him, Saul came to Jerusalem and “tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him”. Why would the disciples in Jerusalem would have been afraid of Saul?](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/25/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-2-paul-and-barnabas-working-together/)

[It is interesting how the text tells us Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. We are not given a lot of details. Did they know each other personally previously? That seems doubtful given Paul’s past. It says “they were all afraid of him”, but evidently Barnabas was not! Had he been in Damascus and witnessed Paul’s transformation?](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/25/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-2-paul-and-barnabas-working-together/)

[We were introduced to Barnabas earlier in Acts 4:36-37. What was his other name? Where did he get the name “Barnabas” and what did it mean? How might this help us understand the actions of Barnabas in Acts 9?](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/25/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-2-paul-and-barnabas-working-together/)

[I suppose it took courage to stand up for Paul. Everyone was afraid and it sounds like unwilling to give him a chance. How might “son of encouragement” be the kind of person who would stand up for someone everyone was afraid of and say, “let’s give him a chance!”](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/25/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-2-paul-and-barnabas-working-together/)

[Please share your thoughts below and add any additional thoughts about this first part of the story of Paul and Barnabas.](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/25/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-2-paul-and-barnabas-working-together/)

# [Barnabas Part 2 – Paul and Barnabas Working Together](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/25/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-2-paul-and-barnabas-working-together/)

After Barnabas stood up for Saul and helped the disciples in Jerusalem accept him, a segment of the Jews in Jerusalem tried to kill him so he was sent away to Tarsus (his home town) where he remained for sometime.

Later, in Acts 11 Barnabas was working with new thriving group of Christians in Antioch and needing help, goes and gets Saul.

What does this show about Barnabas that when he needed help he went to Tarsus to get Saul?

How might this have made Saul feel?

At this point Saul and Barnabas begin a significant period of work together. Note some of the different kinds of things they went through together:

11:27-30

13:1-4

13:50 and 14:19-20

14:11-12

15:1-3

It is interesting to think about all Paul and Barnabas went through together, and this is one reason why the next episode in their relationship is sad:

[**Barnabas Part 3 – Paul and Barnabas Part Ways**](https://lakeshorebiblestudy.com/2020/05/27/friends-of-paul-barnabas-part-3-paul-and-barnabas-part-ways/)

**Remember: we will recap Paul and Barnabas in our Zoom / Facebook live class Wednesday night at 7pm.**

After working through the doctrinal controversy in Acts 15 together, Paul and Barnabas decide to start another trip preaching the gospel. In what is a surprising reminder of their human weakness, Acts tells us a “contention so sharp” (15:39) arose between Paul and Barnabas that they decided to part ways.

In these 3 lessons we have seen all that Barnabas did for Paul and all that they had been through together, which to me, makes this division especially sad. But perhaps it also teaches us something about friendship and how even the apostles were not perfect people.

The disagreement was over Paul’s reluctance to bring Barnabas’ cousin along on the journey: “Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work” (Acts 15:37-38).

In light of that it may be important to know that years later Paul spoke favorably about John Mark. See Colossians 4:2.

Perhaps the lesson here is that friendship isn’t easy and that even mature Christians have conflicts in their relationships.

On the positive side, it has sometimes been observed that because of this, instead of just one preaching trip, you now have to. Maybe it was a blessing in some ways.