



“Zacchaeus, make haste and come down,
for today I must stay at your house.”

– Luke 19:5

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The Meaning of Encouragement

- ▶ Literal
 - ▶ en- “to make, put in”
 - ▶ Courage
- ▶ Def. “to come along side of”
- ▶ “And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.” (Acts 9:26-27)



Who needs encouragement?

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Everyone

- ▶ A partially erroneous teaching
- ▶ “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.” (1 Thes. 5:14)

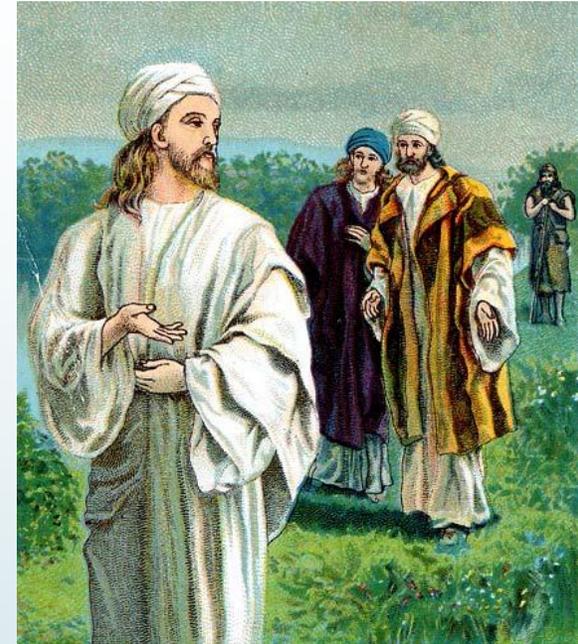
The Fainthearted

- ▶ Those feeling helpless
- ▶ Bouts of feeling “I want to give up.”



The Weak

- ▶ Ex: Sts. James and John
 - ▶ “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” (Lk. 9:54)
 - ▶ “...the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.” (Lk. 9:56)
- ▶ “Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.” (Heb. 13:3)



The Desperate

► Ex: The Children of Israel

► “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today.” (Exo. 14:13)

► “For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us...” (2 Cor. 1:8-10)

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The Fearful

- ▶ Ex: Moses

- ▶ Ex: Joshua

- ▶ “...as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage...” (Jos. 1:5-6)

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The Little

- ▶ Little Talents
- ▶ Little money
- ▶ Little in age
 - ▶ “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matt. 19:14)



How to be an encourager?

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Less effective means

1. Constantly pointing to the weaknesses of a person
2. Being too hard
3. Comparison



More effective means

1. Share in the burden of others

- “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
(Matt. 11:28)
- “...receive him as you would me. But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay...” (Phm 17-19)



More effective means

2. Words of praise

1. "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary."
(Rev. 2:2-3)

3. Display a positive attitude