

Spot On

Restoring the Hebraic foundational emphasis on the processes of how you live your life:



- the responsive actions our Lord commands all of His followers,*
- and their responsibility to deferentially obey by grace the One they love*

Spot 8. Begging on behalf of the Harvest

The gracious and loving heart of our Lord Jesus *yearns* for the souls He has redeemed by His blood! That very thought should overwhelm your heart if you aren't burdened as He is for those who are lost. Yet He patiently remains at His Father's side longing for His workmen to respond in obedience to His call to love as He does.

Thus we come to the matter before us in this Spot:

- How intense is *your* heart burden to bring in the harvest of souls who are still waiting to encounter Jesus throughout the world?
- How willing are *you* to be thrust forth in the Spirit to work on our Lord's behalf to reach the ones He died for who have yet to know Jesus and receive a heavenly welcome?

There's an intensity and urgency in Jesus' command in Luke 10:2 which has been watered down in both the NIV and KJV. See if the differences which are emboldened prompt you to emit a "Wow!" in your own heart:

•*“He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are **few**. **Ask** the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to **send out** workers into his harvest field” (Luke 10:2,NIV).*

•*“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are **few**: **pray** ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would **send forth** labourers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2,KJV).*

•*“And He said to them: Indeed the harvest is much, but the workmen **puny** [in number]; **beg ye** therefore the Lord of the harvest that He would **thrust forth** workmen into His harvest” (Luke 10:2, literal from original Greek).*

At this point in Luke's account, Jesus is about to dispatch 72 of His disciples into every city and place which He was about to personally visit. He wanted these teams of two to carry in their own hearts His own intensity of purpose for bringing the Good News throughout the land. There was a harvest of souls to be reaped for His barns, and His message needed to come from hearts which viewed the lost from His compassionate perspective. There were so many to reach with the Good News, but such a puny number of those who would fulfill the assignment!

Let's look at the world of difference between the “ask the Lord” of the NIV, the “pray” to Him of the KJV, and the literal BEG the Lord of the harvest. If someone “asks” you to do something, there's an optional sense to it. You might do it because he or she is your friend, or because it's convenient for you to comply. And while the word “pray” is direct-

ed to our Father, it lacks the intensity of your heart taking ownership of the urgent need that lays before you.

That's where the Greek word for **to beg** means to beseech someone to meet an urgent need. The urgency of this need represents the heart intensity of Jesus on behalf of those in the world who are held captive by the evil one — and that means *everyone* who is not under the covering of Jesus by being born again (see 1John 5:19).

Do you get an idea of the *resolute determination* that's shown here of begging our Father to **thrust forth** workers into every neighborhood, city, country — anywhere that those who are captive to the world system and apart from Christ might be? Which brings us to our next difference in the texts.

The NIV “asks” Father to “send out” workers into the harvest field. The KJV is similar in its prayer request for Father to “send forth” laborers. But how much more powerful is the literal word which means to **thrust forth** workers into His field! That means beseeching our Father for those who love His Son to readily respond to the Spirit to *go anywhere and do anything* to reach those who have yet to hear and understand.

Jesus made sure that the ones he was *sending forth with His purpose* (the particular word for “sending” which is used here) understood they would indeed face rejection (see 10:16) from those they encountered. He even told them that they were being sent out as “*lambs in the midst of wolves*” — a pretty vivid picture of the harassment they'd face! And as they told Jesus upon their return, they were also confronted by demonic activity in their travels (10:17).

So don't be surprised at the resistance and opposition you'll face when you identify with our Lord's heart burden and serve as His messenger and ambassador. Our persecuted family around the world face attacks and suffering which we in this land don't encounter. Yet we know that even in this relatively safe nation it *does* hurt to be rejected and shunned for presenting the authentic Gospel — the Gospel which doesn't cater to the fleshly desire to “get a ticket to heaven” and still serve self in all its entangling temptations.

What To Take Away From This Discussion:

Be encouraged that our Lord has given you such a high calling even with its relational hazards and pitfalls! He has chosen to reveal to you His Father in all His holiness and love and grace (Matthew 11:25-27) — and no matter who or what tries to distract you or deter you, His love at work in you as you go will enable you to regard the lost with compassion, not a critical spirit.

Examine all aspects of your life from our Father's perspective. Identify and discuss with your family or with those close to you any life goals or values which compromise with the world system, and purpose to be rid of them. Then align yourselves to **bear His heart burden** for souls to be welcomed by Him for eternity, no matter what the cost.