

# The Laborers Are Few

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Luke 10:1-16

Intro. **A.** Jesus appointed 70 men to go before Him into Judea. He had earlier sent 12 into Galilee.

Vs. 1 **1.** "appointed" = ἀναδείκνυμι = "to lift up and shew", "to make public", to declare, to notify, to consecrate, dedicate

**2.** The number 70 was in prominent use in Israel.

Moses appointed 70 Elders to help Him. The Sanhedrin consisted of 70 members. At the feast of Tabernacles 70 bullocks were offered.

**3.** They were sent 2 by 2. They were witnesses.

**4.** They were sent in advance of Jesus' coming.

**B.** Jesus warned them of Circumstances

Vs. 2a **1.** "The harvest truly is great"

**2.** "the laborers are few", ἐργάταις =

a worker, as in a field. Those who would harvest the grain.

Vs. 2b **3.** How could they remedy the situation? They could do only one thing, pray! They were not the "lord of the harvest". They weren't sent to be recruiters or supervisors or paymasters but laborers.

## I. Why Were The Laborers Laborers Few?

**A.** They were completely defenseless.

Vs. 3 **1.** Jesus gave them a command. "Go your ways:"

**2.** "behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves".

**3.** There is no greater description of helplessness.

**B.** They could take nothing but what they were wearing

Vs. 4 **1.** They could not return home to pack.

**2.** "purse" = βαλαντιον = a bag, pouch, for clothing

**3.** "scrip" = πήρα = wallet, sack, made of leather, money

**4.** "shoes" = a sandal, a sole of wood or leather bound to the foot with thongs.

C. The consequences of not receiving the 70.  
Vs. 12 1. "More tolerable" = ἀνεκτός = bearable, endurable, supportable, only in the sense of comparative.  
"...on that day of reckoning it will go better for Sodom than for that city".  
2.

D. Examples of cities that had not received Jesus and His message.  
Vs. 13 1. These were cities Jesus had visited.  
2. Tyre + Sidon were wicked cities  
Vs. 14 3. It would be more "tolerable" for them.  
Vs. 15 4. Capernaum would be destroyed.

### III. These Sent Ones Represent God.

Vs. 16a A "He that heareth you heareth me..."  
1. ἀκούω = "to learn by hearing"  
2. Information from His sent one's is His info.

Vs. 16b B "He that despiseth you despiseth me..."  
1. ἀθετοῦ = "to set aside, disregard."  
2. To disregard the message of the sent one's was to set aside the words of Jesus.

Vs. 16c C "He that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me".  
1. To set aside the teachings of Jesus is to set aside the teachings of God.  
2.