

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 11:2-11

The Third Sunday of Advent, Year A, RCL

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and **tell** [ἀπεγγείλατε, **apengeílate**] John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken in the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? **Look** [ἰδοὺ, **idou̇**], those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘**See** [ἰδοὺ, **idou̇**], I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” [NRSV98]

11:4

ἀπεγγείλατε, **apengeílate**; *vb: aor act imperative 2nd pers pl* from ἀπαγγέλλω:
translations: **tell** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue], also **report** [NGEINT, NIV11], **informad** [IAdNT]

11:8

ἰδοὺ, **idou̇**; *vb: 2nd aor mid imperative 2nd per sg* from ὁράω:
translations: **look** [NRSV89, NJB, NRSVue], also **behold** [ESV, NGEINT], **indeed** [NKJV], **no** [NIV11], **he aquí** [IAdNT]; not translated in NAB

11:10

ἰδοὺ, **idou̇**; *vb: 2nd aor mid imperative 2nd per sg* from ὁράω:
translations: **see** [NRSV89, NRSVue], also **behold** [ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV], **look** [NJB], **he aquí** [IAdNT]; not translated in NIV11

Crossett: The NRSV89 translates Greek ἰδοὺ, **idou̇** as two different English words in this pericope, “look” and “see.” Do you think there is a difference in meaning? If so, what?

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