

Parshas Shlach – If You Really Love Me – Then Love What I Love:

1. **Bamidbar 13:2:** Send forth for yourself men, and let them spy out the Land on Canaan..... **Rashi:** The term ‘for yourself’ means ‘by your discretion.’
2. **Bamidbar 15:39:** And you shall not spy after your heart and after your eyes after which you stray.
3. **Kli Yakar, Bamidbar 13:2:** Therefore the Torah specified “men,” as our Rabbis say (Yalkut Shimoni) that the men hated the land and said ‘let us choose a leader and return to Egypt,’ while the women loved the land and said, ‘give us an inheritance.’ Therefore, G-d said: “According to My understanding, since I see the future, it would be better to send women, who love the land, and they will not speak about its shame; but ‘for yourself’, by your opinion that the men are honorable people, and you think that the land is precious to them, send “men.” This is the meaning of ‘send for **yourself men**’ – by your discretion – **men**. But according to my opinion, it would have been better to send women.
4. **Siddur:** Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe for not having made me a woman / for having made me according to His will.
5. **Rav A.Y. Kook:** With all the advantages that the active man has, such as the ability to leave an imprint on life and on the world; then woman, in contrast, has an advantage of being able to be **affected and impressed**. Woman is created with a nature **to receive imprints**. Men are able to independently make an imprint with his physical and spiritual powers, but can sometimes deviate from G-d’s supernal goals, thereby. This is not the case with the impressionable nature of a woman, **who is straight**; as she is likely to be impressed and influenced from G-d’s Divine influence, due to her straightforward nature....Therefore, her blessing is a **thanksgiving for her good portion**.
6. **Ethics of the Fathers 2:4:** Treat His will as if it were your own will...
7. **Bamidbar 13:30-33:** Calev hushed the people toward Moshe and said, “We shall surely ascend and conquer it, for we can surely do it!” But the men who had ascended with him said, “We can not ascend to that people for it is stronger than us....is a land that devours its inhabitants!”....There we saw the sons of a giant...we were like grasshopper in our eyes, and so we were in their eyes!” **Rashi:** We heard them saying to each other, there are ants in the vineyards which look like men.’
8. **Bamidbar 14:8:** “If Hashem desires us, He will bring us to this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey.”
9. **Rav A.Y. Kook:** A person who makes the effort to merit removing conceit from his heart, will merit to love the land of Israel. The one who truly loves the land of Israel will merit hating conceit.