



# A LOVE THAT SHAKES THE BOWELS

a church in the World

## ABSTRACT

Have you ever heard the phrase, “I love you so much it hurts”? ...

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## Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>BODY</b> .....	<b>1</b>
HOW TO USE THE ACIW SITE FOR STUDYING? .....	2
JESUS HURTS FOR THE PEOPLE .....	2
THIS IS WHY JESUS HURTS .....	2
ΣΚÚΛΛΩ – SKOOL’-LO .....	3
<i>Flay</i> .....	3
ῥίΠΤΩ – HRIP’-TO .....	4
<i>Downcast</i> .....	4
HOW PEOPLE ARE FEELING TODAY .....	5
<i>Anxiety</i> .....	5
<i>Depression</i> .....	5
<i>Stress</i> .....	5
<b>TAKE AWAYS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT THESE TOPICS? .....	6
<i>Anxiety</i> .....	6
<i>Depression</i> .....	6
<i>Stress</i> .....	6

## Introduction

Have you ever heard the phrase, “I love you so much it hurts”? The love that Jesus has for us is that sort of love, but even deeper. It is love that hurts Him to his inner core. “A Love That Shakes the Bowels.”

Let us Pray ...

## Body

### Matthew 9:35 – 36

*<sup>35</sup>And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

In v. 35, unlike what just happened in Jesus’s hometown, where He barely healed anyone, now He is healing everyone. Last week, we mentioned that the people in his hometown did not believe

in Him, so they were not healed. However, we did address the fact that God sometimes heals people who doubt Him and doesn't heal people who believe in Him. I encourage you to listen to last week's sermon, as I went into depth on these topics.

The key is we are to have faith that what God has for us is best and we should ask in that way, as Jesus asked in Gethsemane. He asked for what was on His heart, but He said "not My will be done, but Yours be done."

These people were hurting in so many areas that Jesus had a compassion for these people where the English word compassion isn't strong enough to convey how Jesus felt. Have your notebooks out today, because for you to really feel the emotion that is contained in v. 36 we need to roll up our sleeves and start looking at the actual Greek words.

## How to Use the aciW Site for Studying?

This is a good spot to take a little time to show you how to use the aciW site to help in your study of the Bible. We have many free tools on the site to help you. For what I am getting ready to show you, I used the free tools that you can access from our resources section. Here is a short video showing how to use the site:

- Study Tools video

## Jesus Hurts for the People

As I mentioned in the video I went to the Bible app and looked up the word compassion. In the New Testament "compassion" is used 11 times in the ESV translation. However, there are different Greek words used which get translated as compassion.

- **οἰκτίρω** (oyk-ti'-ro): to exercise pity:—have compassion on (Romans 9:15)
- **συμπαθέω** (soom-path-eh'-o): to feel "sympathy" with, i.e. (by implication) to commiserate:—have compassion, be touched with a feeling of. (Hebrews 10:34)
- **σπλαγχνίζομαι** (splangkhnid'-zom-ah-ee): to be moved as to one's bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity)

Do you see the difference? It's really do you feel the difference? You hurt for the people down to your bowels, moving. Every time compassion is listed in the gospels it is the word "σπλαγχνίζομαι"

## This is Why Jesus Hurts

These are the words used to describe the people in verse 36 from different translations.

- Harassed and helpless (ESV & NIV)
- Distressed and dejected (CSB)
- Confused and helpless (NLT)

- Worried and helpless (GNT)
- Fainted and were scattered abroad (KJV)
- Weary and scattered (NKJV)
- Distressed and downcast (NASB)

Confused is different than distressed, dejected is different than scattered, and so on. So we need to go to the Greek again to get a better understanding of how the people are feeling.

## σκούλλω – skool'-lo

Harassed, distressed, confused, worried, fainted, and weary

### Strong's Definition

σκούλλω skýllō, skool'-lo; apparently a primary verb; to flay, i.e. (figuratively) to harass:—trouble(self).

### Thayer's Greek Lexicon

1. to skin, flay (Anthol.).
2. to rend, mangle (Aeschylus Pers. 577);
  - a. to vex, trouble, annoy (Herodian, 7, 3, 9 (4)): [Mark 5:35](#); [Luke 8:49](#); passive, (R. V. distressed), [Matthew 9:36](#) ;
  - b. to give oneself trouble, trouble oneself: [Luke 7:6](#).

## Flay

This is the primary definition for Strong's and Thayer, and it is not a word we use that much in the 21<sup>st</sup> century so let's see exactly what is the definition of flay:

1. To strip off the skin or outer covering of.
2. To strip of money or goods; fleece.
3. To whip or lash.

The people are being beaten up. Their skin is being stripped off them. There is more weight to this word than just confused or even worry. It is a word that is difficult to translate from Greek to English, because there isn't an English word in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that conveys the appropriate heaviness in the meaning. I think of the image of Job with his sores scratching his skin with broken pottery (**Job 2:7 – 8**).

### **Job 2:7 – 8**

*<sup>7</sup> So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. <sup>8</sup> And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.*

## ῥίπτω – hrip'-to

helpless, dejected, scattered, downcast

### Outline of Biblical Usage

1. to cast, throw
2. throw down
3. to cast forward or before
4. to set down (with the suggestion of haste and want of care)
5. to throw to the ground, prostrate

### Strong's Definition

**ῥίπτω** rhíptō, hrip'-to; a primary verb (perhaps rather akin to the base of [G4474](#), through the idea of sudden motion); to fling (properly, with a quick toss, thus differing from [G906](#), which denotes a deliberate hurl; and from [τείνω](#) teínō (see in [G1614](#)), which indicates an extended projection); by qualification, to deposit (as if a load); by extension, to disperse:—cast (down, out), scatter abroad, throw.

From the Greek word definition, it seems the translators wanted to convey that the people were feeling extremely down. So, for me, I believe downcast may be the best definition:

### *Downcast*

#### adjective

1. Directed downward. -- "a downcast glance."
2. Low in spirits; depressed. *synonym*: **depressed**.  
Similar: [depressed](#)
3. Cast downward; directed to the ground, from bashfulness, modesty, dejection, or guilt.

### **Job 1:13 – 20**

*<sup>13</sup>Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup>and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, <sup>15</sup>and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants<sup>[a]</sup> with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>16</sup>While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>17</sup>While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>18</sup>While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup>and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

*<sup>20</sup> Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground*

## How People are Feeling Today

### *Anxiety*

The 2024 results of the American Psychiatric Association's annual mental health poll show that U.S. adults are feeling increasingly anxious. In 2024, 43% of adults say they feel more anxious than they did the previous year, up from 37% in 2023 and 32% in 2022.

### *Depression*

Depression is becoming more common among adults and adolescents in the United States, but most are not getting therapy to help, according to a new report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than 1 in 8 people ages 12 and up in the US have been depressed in recent years, according to [data](#) published Wednesday by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Depression prevalence has nearly doubled, from 7.3% in 2015-16 to more than 13% in 2021-23.

### *Stress*

**Ipsos global survey on World Mental Health Day 2024** shows 1 in 2 urban Indians (53%) say they have experienced stress to the extent that it impacted their daily life in the last one year. 1 in 4 Indians (22%) have been in such a stressful scenario several times, 31% have experienced stress at least once. Mental health has emerged as a growing concern around the world as per this Ipsos survey conducted in 31 countries.

These are the sheep without guidance. Not knowing where to go. Listening to advice from sources who do not have the words of life. Acting as if they are shepherds or laborers for Thee Shepherd, but are only false witnesses.

## Take Aways

... but I have good news. There is a Shepherd who hurts to His inner core for His sheep. As Jesus says in His word, His sheep here His voice, I hope you are hearing His voice now, because this is what He says who those who feel like their skin is being peeled off of their skin and feel so low and depressed.

## What Does God Say About These Topics?

### Anxiety

#### Matt 6:31 – 34

*<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

*<sup>34</sup> "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

### Depression

#### Psalm 34:15 – 18

*<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous  
and his ears toward their cry.*

*<sup>16</sup> The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.*

*<sup>17</sup> When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

*<sup>18</sup> The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.*

### Stress

#### John 14:26 – 27

*<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

I want us to go back to Job. I didn't read all of v. 20 in Chapter 1:

#### Job 1:20 – 22

*<sup>20</sup> Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. <sup>21</sup> And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."*

*<sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.*

Very powerful of how Job (sheep), even in his sorrow trusts his Shepherd (Jesus). This is a supernatural power that the people of God are given by God, by the indwelling of His Spirit.

Those who humble themselves and die to what they want and want to live for Christ shall be lifted up by God to be more than we can even imagine.

### **1 Peter 5:6 – 11**

*<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*