PSYCHOLOGY OF A NON-CHRISTIAN: Matthew 9:36

**Steven Rudd July 2022**

**Key bible words chosen by the Holy Spirit to describe the non-Christian:**

Distressed | Dispirited | Afflicted | Wander (Without purpose, direction and meaning)

**Paraphrase:**

“I worry and never have a minute of peace. I always feel distressed and drained and wish someone would provide me a bit of understanding, compassion, protection, and guidance.”

**Literally:**

‘wander, torn and thrown down’, is a metaphor of unprotected sheep being attacked by predators

**Key texts:**

"Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed [Gr: skullo] and dispirited [Gr: rhipto; Heb: like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36)

"For the teraphim [leaders and media] speak iniquity, And the diviners evolutionists and global warming advocates] see lying visions and tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore, the people wander like sheep, They are afflicted, because there is no shepherd." (Zechariah 10:2)

**A. The wicked/lost/non-Christian are “distressed”:**

1. Definition:
   1. Vines: skullō (σκύλλω , (4660)) primarily signifies to skin, to flay; then to rend, mangle; hence, to vex, trouble, annoy.
   2. NASB alternate: Harassed
2. Verses:
   1. "While He was still speaking, they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?”" (Mark 5:35)
   2. "Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, “Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof;" (Luke 7:6)
   3. "While He was still speaking, someone came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; do not trouble the Teacher anymore.”" (Luke 8:49)

**B. The wicked/lost/non-Christian are “dispirited”:**

1. Definition:
   1. Vines: rhiptō (ῥίπτω , (4496)) denotes to throw with a sudden motion, to jerk, cast forth; “cast down,”
   2. Vines: 6031 עָנָה, עָנָה [ʿanah /aw·naw/] v. A primitive root [possibly rather ident. with 6030 through the idea of looking down or browbeating]; “afflict” 50 times, “humble” 11 times, “force” five times, “exercised” twice, “Leannoth”, “troubled” once, “weakened
2. Verses:
   1. "And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them." (Matthew 15:30)
   2. "But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of the people, he came out of him without doing him any harm." (Luke 4:35)
3. Poetic descriptions of the wicked/lost in the “Leannoth/Mahalath Psalms” used in titles:
   1. Ps 53 “by David”: describes the non-Christian in rebellion to God
   2. Ps 88 “by Heman”: describes the prodigal unrepentant Christian, disobedient to God
      1. Heman was appointed in David’s new spiritual order as a prophet and song director: 1 Kings 4:30–31; 1 Chronicles 6:33; 1 Chronicles 15:19; 1 Chronicles 25:5–7

**C. The lost suffer because they are without a shepherd:**

1. Definition:
   1. The desperate, helpless feeling one experiences when they reject Jesus as their moral compass.
   2. Wander aimlessly without purpose or direction
   3. Fear for lack of oversight and protection a loving shepherd provides
2. Verses:
   1. "For the teraphim speak iniquity, And the diviners see lying visions And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep, They are afflicted, because there is no shepherd." (Zechariah 10:2)
   2. "“They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered." (Ezekiel 34:5)
   3. "Then Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, “May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation, who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord will not be like sheep which have no shepherd.” So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. “You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him. “Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his command they shall go out and at his command they shall come in, both he and the sons of Israel with him, even all the congregation.” Moses did just as the Lord commanded him; and he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses." (Numbers 27:15–23)
   4. "“What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? “When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. “And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." (Luke 15:4–7)

**D. Solution:**

1. Confess to God that despite all your talents, money and power, that you are a worthless worm in God’s eyes.
2. Repent and stop sinning against the Law of Christ.
3. Deny yourself and become obedient to the will of Jesus Christ.
4. Be content in your current life situation, whether is happened by chance or because of your own sinful behaviour choices.
5. Become a Christian: Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38

**Conclusion:**

1. "“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”" (Matthew 11:28–30)
2. "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:4)
3. "“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate,” Declares the Lord of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones." (Zechariah 13:7)
4. "Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20–21)