

WHEN YOU FEEL HARASSED AND HELPLESS

Matt. 9:36 (RSV)

Introduction

The root meaning of the word "harass"

"I flay, skin" "To set the dogs on"

"distress, worry, trouble, vex, annoy"

The root meaning of the word for "helpless"

"I throw, cast, shake, toss"

(like a dog shaking a rag doll"

"sunk powerless"

Here the middle or passive voice is used:

"to give one's self trouble, trouble one's self"

Jesus saw the crowds harassed and helpless.

1. Political harassment from Rome & the zealots

2. Religious harassment from the pharisees & saducees

3. Economic harassment

4. Harassment by disease

5. Harassment by sin and guilt

I. How we sometimes feel harassed and helpless

A. For all the above reasons, and more.

B. One writer has called this "the beat generation"
(Luccock, p. 125)

C. We feel pushed and pulled in different directions at the same time.

II. What to do when you feel harassed and helpless

A. Check first to see if the harassment is not self-inflicted
(see "Perspective" & "Miscellaneous misses")

B. Be sure you do not harass others

(story from Tuskegee Inst. President about the colored family & White family next door, Hudson p83)

C. Try to help someone else who probably feels just as harassed as you do.

D. Accept the compassion of Christ as His remedy for our harassment & helplessness. "He Understands"

E. Hear the good news of the gospel for a beat generation

1. A word of assurance - "I am with you always"

2. A word of challenge - Take up your cross & follow me

3. A word of invitation - "Come unto me and I will give you rest"

verb "to harry" - harried
= "to torment, worry, harass,
"to force or push along" (O)
(as Drill Sergeant may force
or push trainees along in
their training).

"Harrass" - from old French word
meaning "to set a dog on" or
or "to cry out to incite dogs"
on someone or something. (O)
- Eng. meaning = "to trouble,
worry, or torment with cares."

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