

“The way it happens is this. A heavy, fat, or long fleeced sheep will lie down comfortably in some little hollow or depression in the ground. It may roll on its side slightly to stretch out or relax. Suddenly the center of gravity in the body shifts so that it turns on its back far enough that the feet no longer touch the ground. It may feel a sense of panic and start to paw frantically. Frequently this only makes things worse. It rolls over even further. Now it is quite impossible for it to regain its feet.”

“A cast sheep is a very pathetic site. Lying on its back, its feet in the air, it flays away frantically struggling to stand up, without success. Sometimes it will bleat a little for help, but generally it lies there lashing about in frightened frustration.”

Philip Keller

“This response is described by the strongly emotional Greek verb *splagchnizomai*, which speaks of a warm, compassionate response to need. No single English term does justice to it: compassion, pity, sympathy, and fellow-feeling all convey part of it, but ‘his heart went out’ perhaps represents more fully the emotional force of the underlying metaphor of a ‘gut response’... It is a verb which describes the Jesus of the gospel stories in a nutshell.”

R. T. France

“If you would sum up the whole character of Christ in reference to ourselves, it might be gathered into this one sentence, ‘He was moved with compassion.’ ... His tender heart pities all the griefs of his dear people. He looks upon their imperfections and their infirmities, yet not with anger, not with loss of patience, but with gentleness and sympathy, ‘He is moved with compassion.’”

Charles Spurgeon

“This is the supreme motivation for mission. To see the need of those that are perishing outside the kingdom. Motivation comes when you see people harassed by pressures, exhausted by the pace of life, going nowhere, and being led astray by many false ideologies. The Gospels repeatedly tell us that when Jesus saw he had compassion. But perhaps we do not even look, let alone care.”

Michael Green