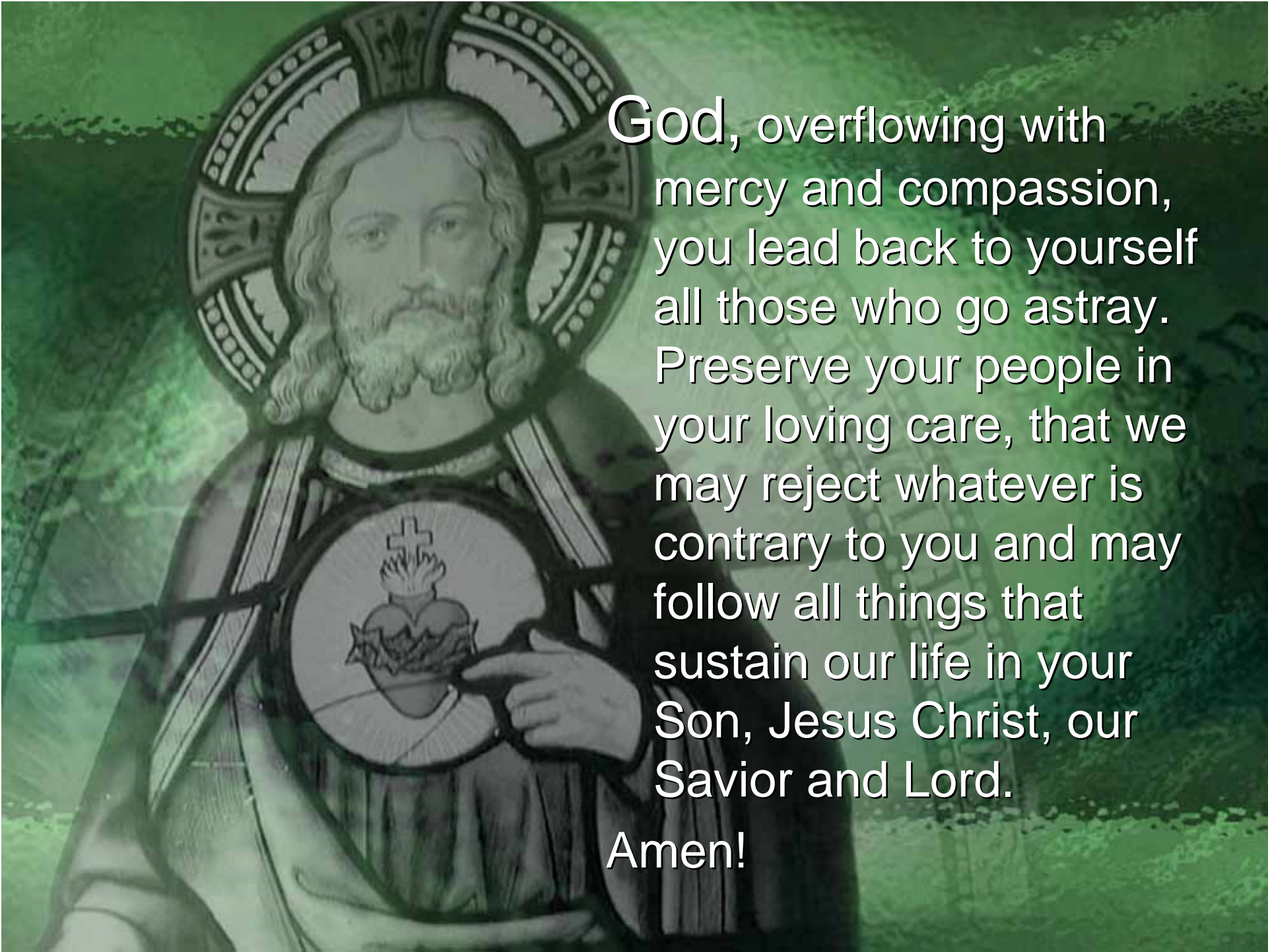




[christians *at*large]

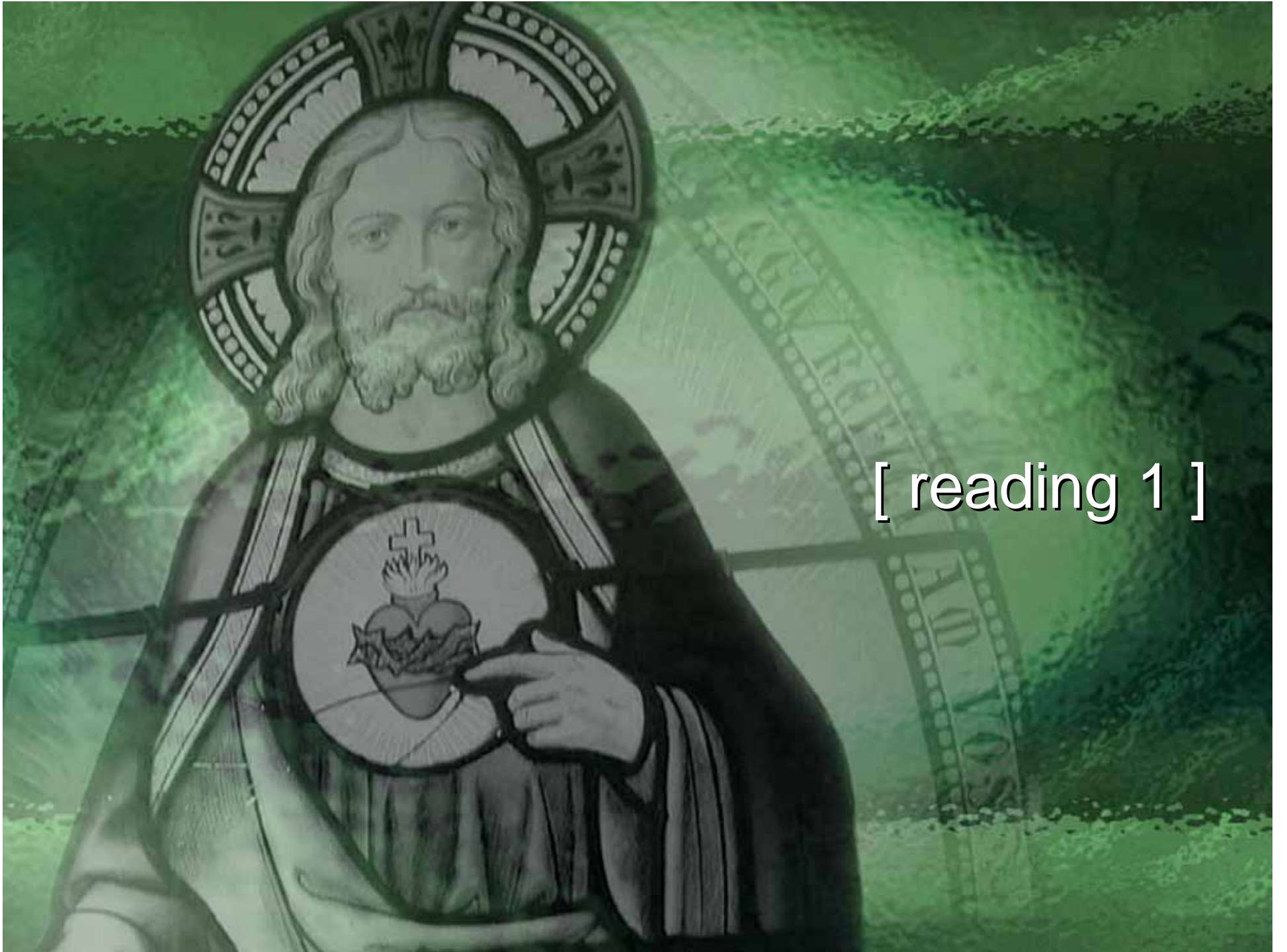


[collect]



God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!



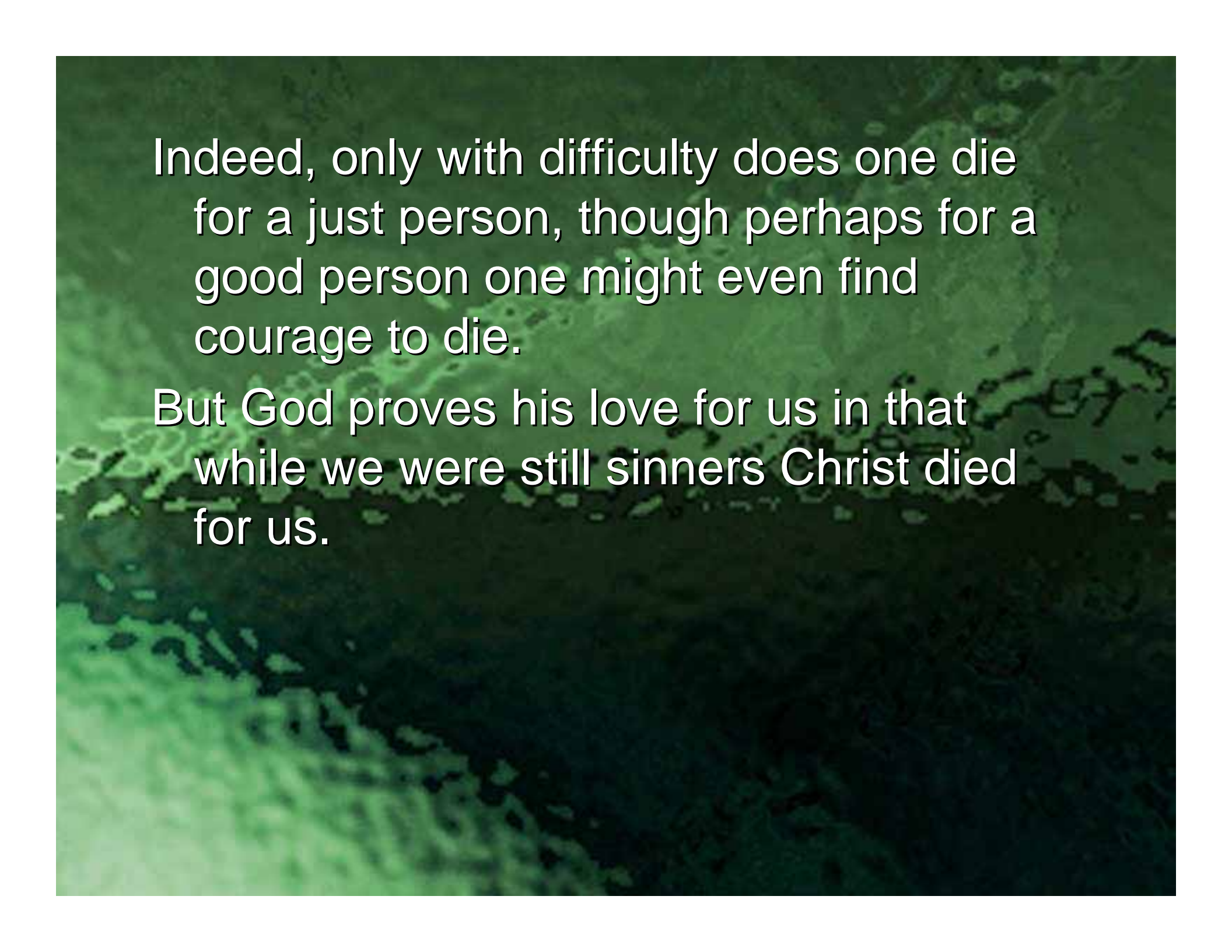
[reading 1]



Brothers and sisters:

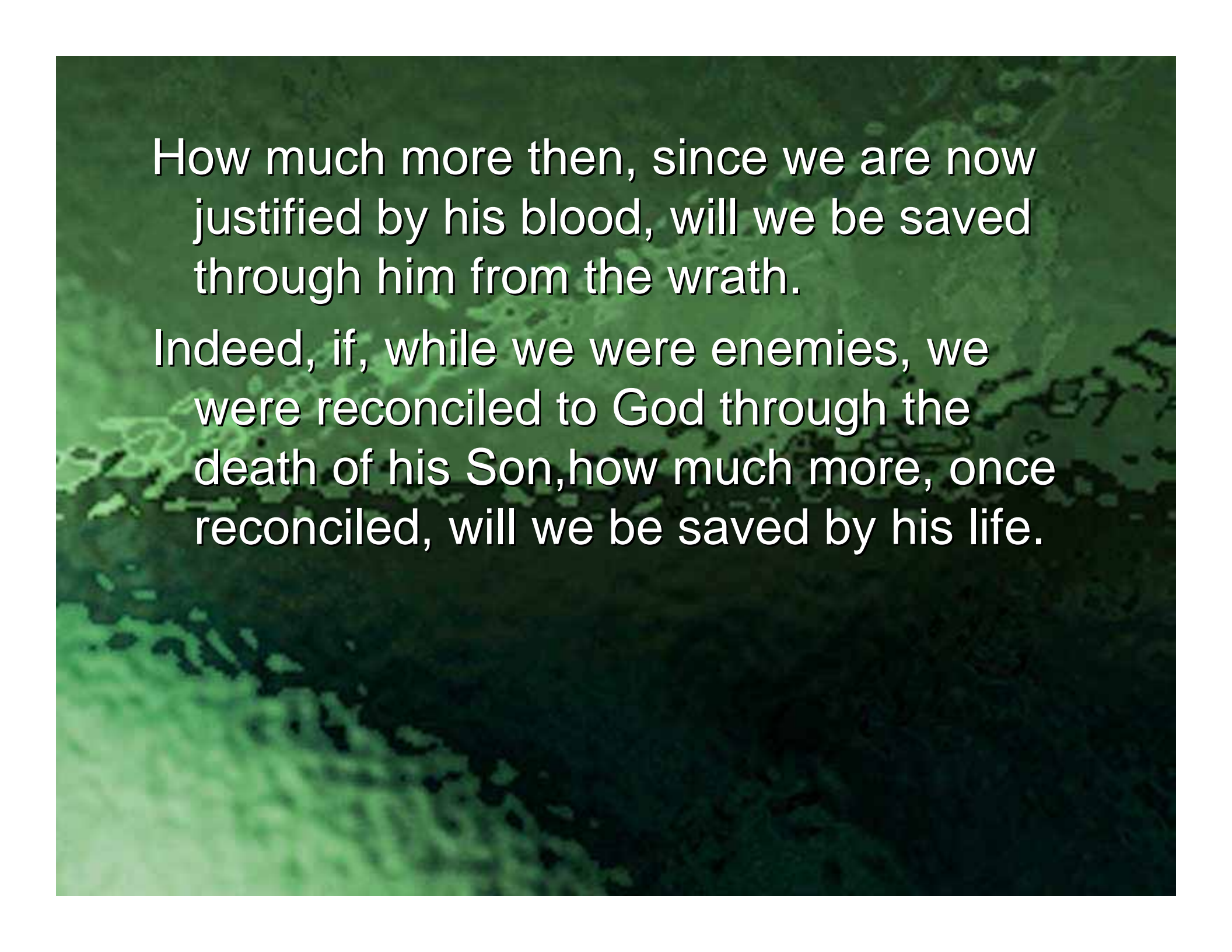
The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly.




Indeed, only with difficulty does one die
for a just person, though perhaps for a
good person one might even find
courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that
while we were still sinners Christ died
for us.



How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

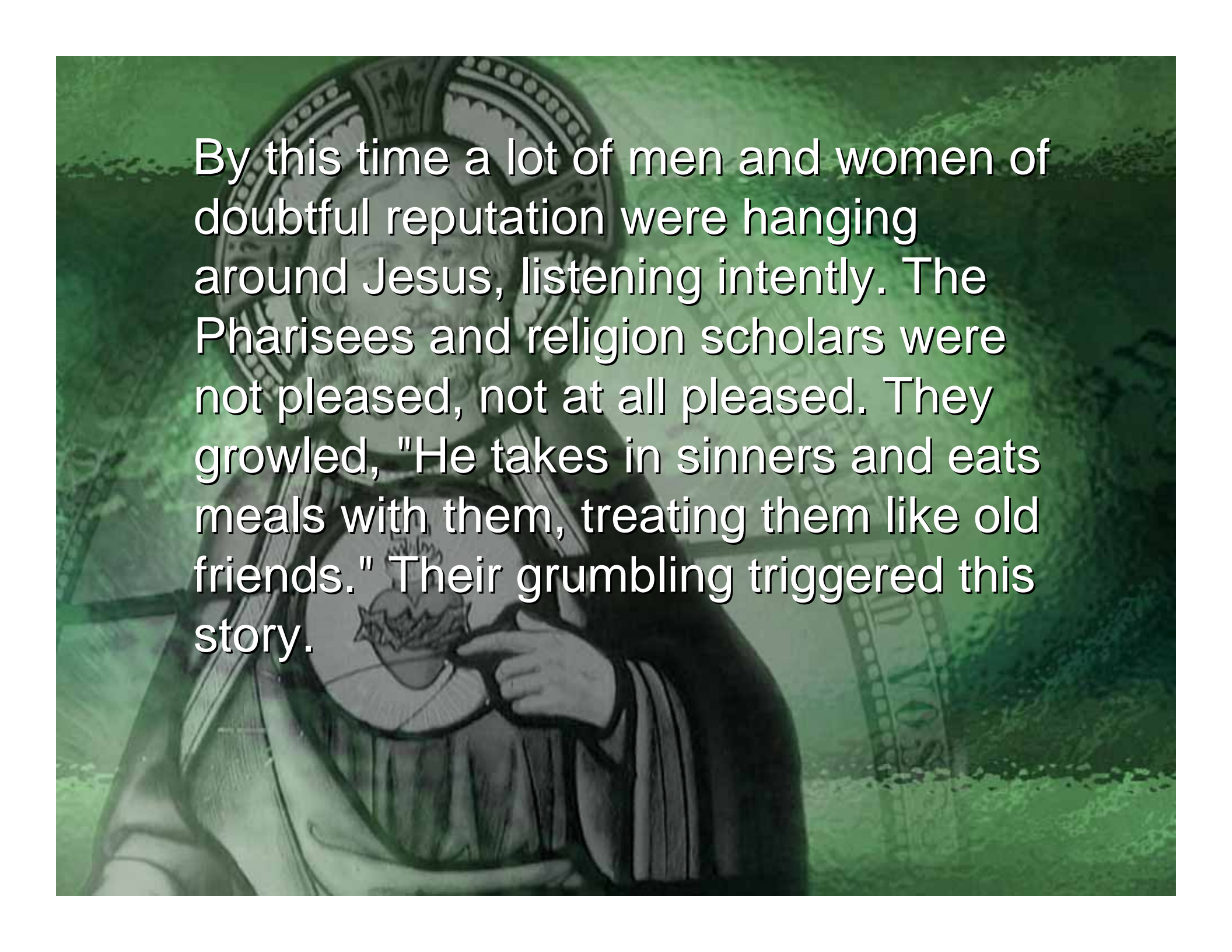


Not only that,
but we also boast of God through our
Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we
have now received reconciliation.

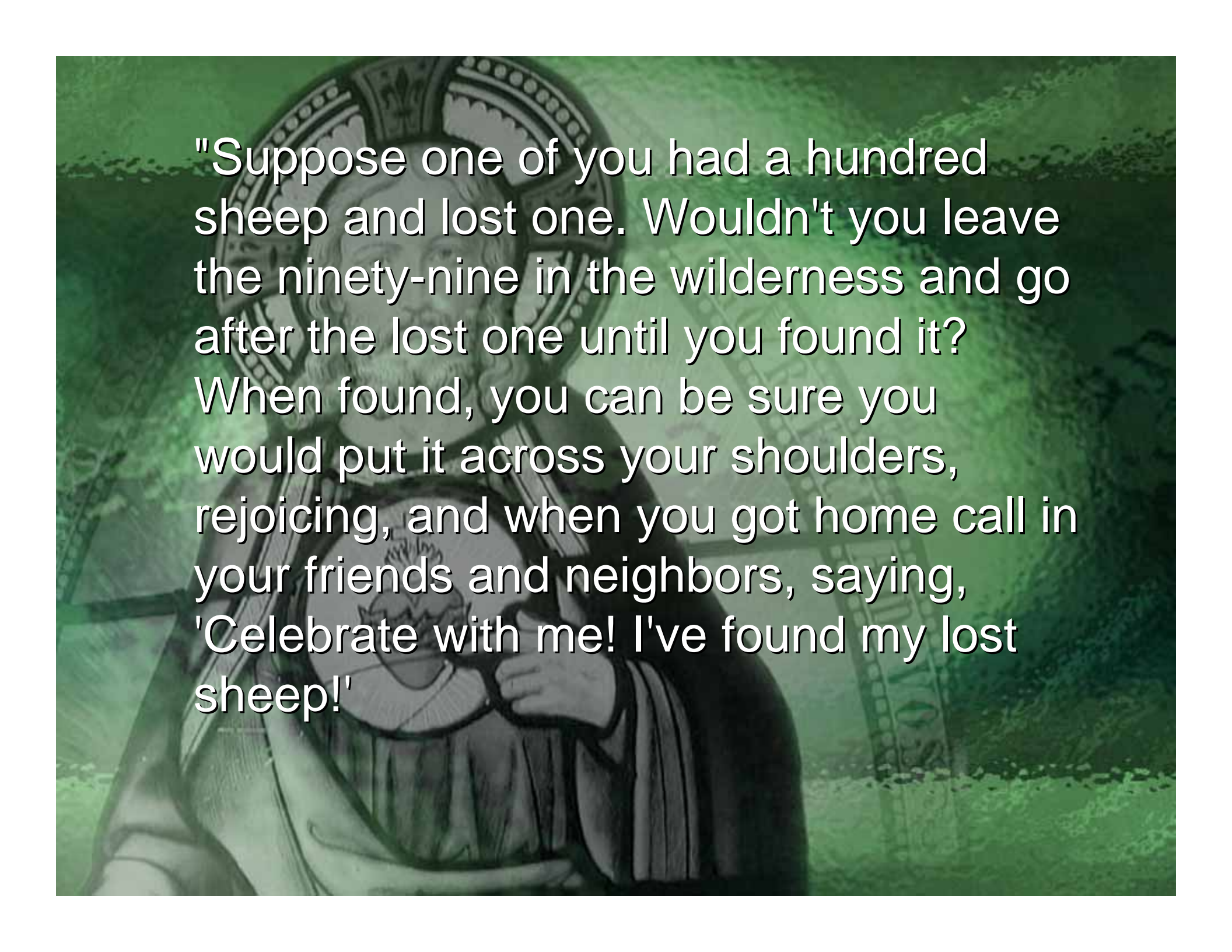
Romans 5:5-11



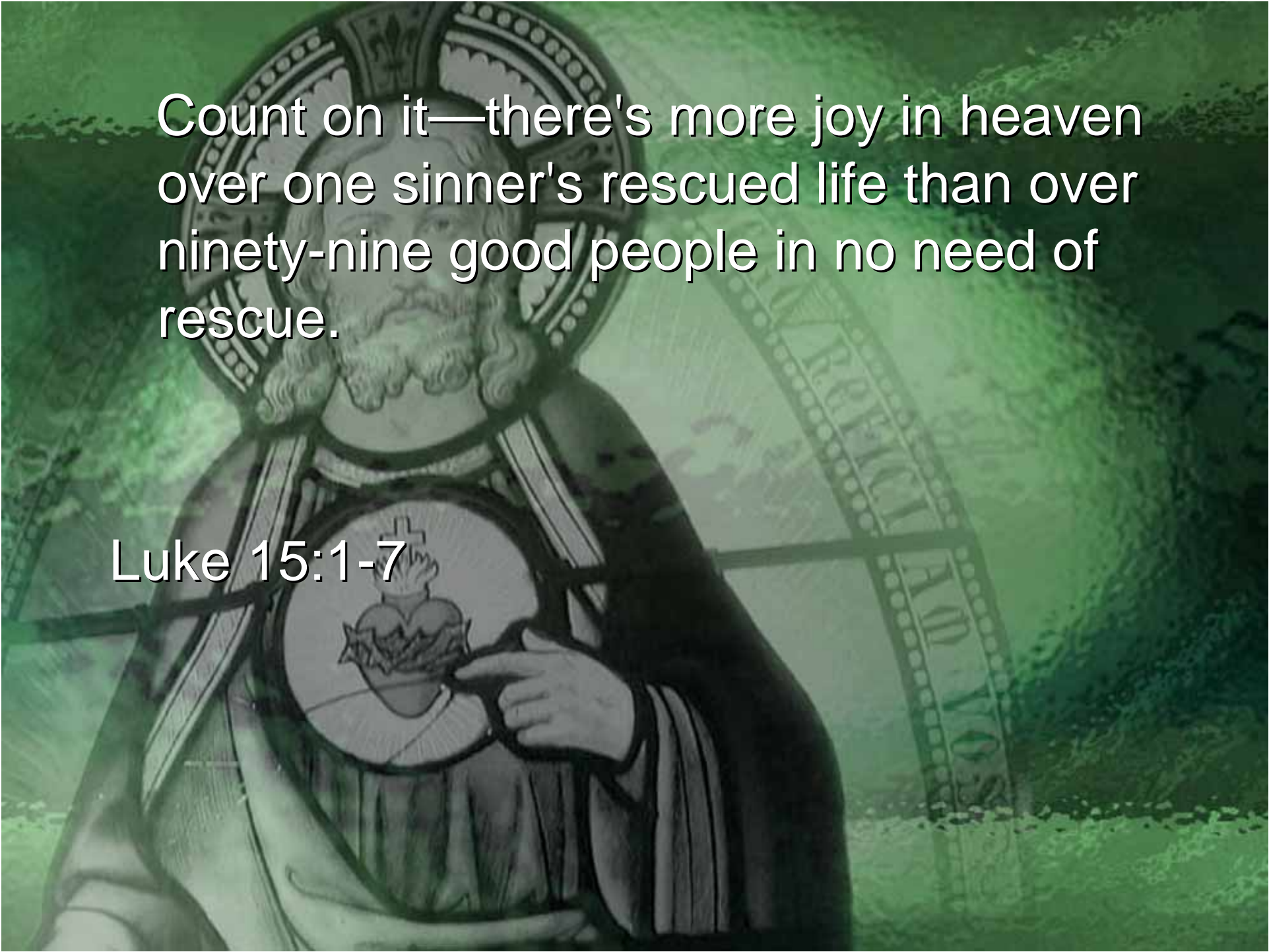
[the holy gospel]

A green-tinted illustration of Jesus with a Sacred Heart, surrounded by text. The background features faint, large letters spelling 'LOVE' and 'GOD'.

By this time a lot of men and women of doubtful reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, "He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends." Their grumbling triggered this story.



"Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!'



Count on it—there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

Luke 15:1-7





[christians *at*large]



[prayer]



God be in my head and in
my understanding.

God be in mine eyes and
in my looking.

God be in my mouth and in
my speaking.

God be in my heart and in
my thinking.

God be at mine end and in
my departing.

Sarum Primer, 1527



[christians *at*large]

Brainstorming a Vision

How do we enfold our values into our lives
or “walk the walk”?

- Shared values:
 - Christ-centered living -- discipleship
 - Contemplation/Prayer
 - Scripture/Study
 - Relationships/Community
 - Outreach/Action
 - Openness/Questioning
 - Generosity
 - Others?