

# THE GATHERING



REV. DR. CYNTHIA L. HALE  
SENIOR PASTOR



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# The Gathering

I Am Especially Fond of You

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REV. LEAH D. JACKSON

RAY OF HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**A favorite is a person or thing regarded with special favor or preference, which usually means unfair treatment of anyone who is not our favorite.**

# **Favor**

**“excessive kindness or unfair  
partiality or preferential  
treatment”**



**God's favor  
or choice  
is not arbitrary.**

**God's favor or choice  
often comes with great  
responsibility and  
challenges.**

I'm especially fond of you!



# Fond

**“Having an affection or liking,  
foolishly tender, cherished  
with great affection”**



**“For the Son of Man  
came to seek and  
to save the lost.”**

**Luke 19:10**

# Luke 15



## **“Lost” in English**

**“helpless, not made use of, no  
longer possessed, taken away  
beyond reach, unable to find the way,  
no longer visible, obscured or  
overlooked”**

**“Apollumi”**

**“to destroy, a complete loss,  
cut off, to completely perish,  
to die, to come to destruction”**



**“God does not want anyone to  
perish, but everyone to come to  
repentance.”**

**2 Peter 3:9**

**When we die separated  
from God, that breaks  
God's heart.**



# Pharisees

- **Jewish sect**
- **Strict observance of the law**
- **Self-righteous**
- **Associated only with “righteous”**

**“People look at the outward  
appearance, but the Lord  
looks at the heart.”**

**1 Samuel 16:7**

**No one is irretrievable**



**What do you think you've  
done that is unforgiveable?**

# Psalm 139:7-10

Everyone is worth  
being found.



**Matthew 10:29-31**

**It gives God great joy to  
forgive and restore the lost!**

- **The Seeker's Loss**
- **The Seeker's Activity**
- **The Seeker's Persistence**
- **The Seeker's Love**
- **The Seeker's Joy**
- **The Seeker's Fellowship**



**God is the seeker.**

**The unsaved are the lost coin  
and lost sheep.**

**God will come after you!**

**The woman was  
unrelentless in her search.**



- **Lit a lamp**
- **Swept the house**
- **Searched carefully**

**1 Coin = a day's wages**

**When a Jewish girl married,  
she began to wear a headband of  
ten silver coins to signify  
that she was now a wife.**



**What lost coin is not worth  
being found?**

# Romans 8:38-39

**God is not satisfied until he  
completes his set.**



**The shepherd was responsible  
for his sheep.**

**He had to pay for missing sheep.**

**Sheep can't find their way home.**

**Sheep get lost little by little.**



**There is safety in numbers.**

**A shepherd is especially fond  
of the one that wanders off.**

**Shepherds often traveled in groups. It is unlikely that the 99 were left alone.**



**“You have taken account of  
my wanderings. Put my tears  
in your bottle. Are they not  
in your book?”**

**Psalm 56:8**

The shepherd comforts the  
sheep when he finds it.

**“Yea thou I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no  
evil, for you are with me; your rod  
and your staff, they comfort me.”**

**Psalm 23:4**



**Matthew 11:28-30**

**Just as that coin was returned to  
the headdress with the other coins,  
the sheep was returned to the fold.**

**The son was lost by choice.**



**An heir was entitled to claim his share  
of his father's estate while he was  
still yet living.**

**The oldest received  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  
the youngest  $\frac{1}{3}$ .**

**When he came to himself,  
the son made a wise choice.  
He chose to return home.**

**We have a God-shaped hole  
inside of us.**



**To return home, you must  
first realize that you are lost.**

**Some of us stay lost because  
we are too prideful.**

**The father was waiting for  
the son.**



The father never gave up hope;  
God doesn't either.

He hoped against all hope.

**“The Lord longs to be gracious  
to you; therefore, he will rise up  
to show you compassion.”**

**Isaiah 30:18**

**The son was walking home,  
but the father ran to greet him.**



**Old men in the ancient near  
east didn't run.**

**The father received him warmly  
and compassionately.**

**“See what great love the Father  
has lavished on us, that we should be  
called children of God!  
And that is what we are!”**

**1 John 3:1**



Being found does not require  
you to get yourself fully  
together or be all cleaned up.

**Heaven throws a party when  
a lost soul is found.**

**We don't need to get upset  
when God shows favor  
to others.**



1. When we were lost, God came after us.
2. Heaven threw a party for us.
3. If you run away from God, you can always come home.

**We too are called to be  
especially fond of the lost.**