

Speaking to an Audience of One?

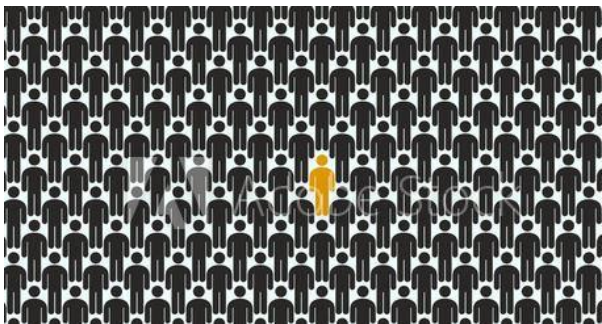
Throughout my life I have had numerous opportunities to make presentations at civic club meetings. The introduction is made and I step to the podium. As I looked out at the crowd I made it a point to not see them as a group of anonymous people but as unique individuals. Instead of speaking to the masses I looked at individual faces the entire time I spoke, gauging how individuals were receiving what I had to say.

Jesus spoke to many crowds but His goal was to speak to each person present. Each individual had a name, unique needs and their own life story. Jesus is often referred to as the “Good Shepherd” who knows his sheep – each one of them as individuals. Jesus said, *I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep (John 10:14-15)*. Even though He worked with an entire herd of sheep the shepherd was willing to leave the 99 behind to tend to the one who was lost (see Matthew 18:12-14.)



You are important to God. God doesn't look at the millions of people living on the face of the earth and make generalizations about mankind. He created each of us to be a unique individual with unique needs. Yes, you are special in God's eyes. God promises to help us in our time of need. *But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze (Isaiah 43:1)*.

Imagine yourself at a massive amphitheater listening to a person speaking from the podium. Imagine that the speaker is Jesus Christ. As Jesus looks out on the thousands of people in the crowd your face is illuminated to Him. Of all the people there you are front and center and your face is highlighted to Him with a spotlight. Jesus sees you there. He knows your name. He knows your children's names. He knows all about you – your triumphs and your



struggles. So, He is speaking to you directly. You are an audience of one to Him. Now, multiply this by the thousands of people in audience. Jesus knows everyone there. Everyone's face is illuminated and stands out to Him. Impossible? It is certainly impossible for us, but not for God. Because He knows and understands us, we can believe His promise to be with us as we walk through fire and any other tribulations of life. That is pretty neat. Not only does He know your name but He calls you by

name.

You are not just a face in the crowd but a one-of-a-kind creation from almighty God. God designed and equipped you to fulfill a specific purpose. You have God's undivided attention. You are an “audience of one” with the Almighty.

Prayer: Almighty Father. We are not alone in this world, lost in a crowd. We know Your eyes are upon each of us in all we do and you are ready to interact with us. Thank You for caring for each of us and for the promise of Your presence in our lives. Amen.