

BACK IN 1904,,, A FINANCIAL WIZARD,,, BY THE NAME OF EDWARD FRANCIS HUTTON FORMED A COMPANY BY THE NAME OF “EF HUTTON”. REMEMBER THAT? LATER ON,,, IN THE 1970’S A FAMOUS ACTOR BY THE NAME OF: JOHN HOUSEMAN,,, DID A TV COMMERCIAL THAT’S REMEMBERED TO THIS DAY. IT WENT LIKE THIS; “**WHEN EF HUTTON SPEAKS,,, PEOPLE LISTEN**” NOW,,, PERHAPS SOME OF US “**MORE MATURE**” FOLKS MAY REMEMBER THAT ONE!

ANYWAY,,, WHAT I’M SAYING,,, IS THAT,,, USUALLY,,, WHEN IMPORTANT PEOPLE SPEAK,,, PEOPLE LISTEN! E. F. HUTTON,,, PASSED AWAY,,, IN 1962,,, AND JOHN HOUSEMAN,,, IN 1988.

BUT BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, WE HAVE A VERY,,, VERY,,, ALMIGHTY GOD,,, WHO IS STILL ALIVE AND WHO IS STILL SPEAKING OUT TO OUR WORLD,,, AND,,, **WHEN GOD SPEAKS,, EVERYONE HAD BETTER LISTEN**

*BECAUSE,,, LISTENING –*

*WHEN SOMEONE IMPORTANT SPEAKS,,, IS IMPORTANT!*

LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE: WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG,,, AND YOUR MOM CALLED YOU,,, YOU HEARD HER VOICE AND YOU RESPONDED TO IT,,, BUT IT WAS STILL MOM,,, AND,,, YOU WOULD GET THERE AS SOON AS YOU COULD,,, RIGHT? BUT,,, IF YOUR MOM USED ALL YOUR NAMES,,, THERE WAS A SENSE OF REAL AUTHORITY IN HER VOICE,,, WHICH SAID: THAT YOU HAD BETTER RESPOND,,, A BIT QUICKER!

LIKE: **BRENDA,,, BRENDA LOUISE,,,  
BRENDA LOUISE SEEBOLD!**

BUT,,, WHEN DAD SPOKE,,, FROM THE BEGINNING,,, IT WAS WITH FIRM AUTHORITY,,, AND HIS CALL,,, LEFT LITTLE DOUBT,,, THAT YOU HAD BETTER RESPOND,,, AND IT BETTER BE THE RIGHT RESPONSE,,, BECAUSE IF YOU DIDN’T RESPOND,,, THE WAY DAD THOUGHT YOU SHOULD,,, THERE WAS AN EXPECTED AND UNREWARDING RESPONSE.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, **THE THINGS THAT JESUS SAYS,,, ARE IMPORTANT** AND IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO US,,, TO LISTEN,,, WHEN HE SPEAKS,,, BECAUSE,,, JESUS KNOWS US,,, EVEN BETTER,,, THAN OUR EARTHLY FATHERS AND MOTHERS. JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD,,, AND,,, WE ARE HIS SHEEP. WHEN JESUS SPEAKS,,, IT'S WITH THE AUTHORITY,,, FROM THE THRONE OF HEAVEN,,, AND WE NEED TO RESPOND,,, BECAUSE,,, THAT AUTHORITY CARRIES MORE POWER,,, THAN ANYONE.

IN TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING,,, JESUS SAID:  
***I KNOW MY SHEEP,,, MY SHEEP KNOW MY VOICE,,, AND I KNOW THEM,,, AND THEY FOLLOW ME.***

IN THAT STATEMENT,,, ***JESUS WAS REFERING TO US AS SHEEP***,,, AND HIS STATEMENT BRINGS TO MIND,,, A PICTURE THAT WE'VE SEEN MANY TIMES,,, OVER THE YEARS,,, WHERE WE SEE JESUS TENDERLY HOLDING A SHEEP IN HIS LOVING,,, CARING ARMS,,, MAKING IT FEEL SAFE AND SECURE.

NOW SHEEP AREN'T VERY SMART ANIMALS,,, THEY'LL DRINK DIRTY WATER,,, THEY'LL WANDER AWAY FROM THEIR FLOCK AND THEY GET LOST EASILY. LIKE IT'S SAID IN (***ISAIAH 53: 6***) ***"WE,,, ALL LIKE SHEEP,,, HAVE GONE ASTRAY"***. AS A RESULT,,, WE SOMETIMES GET OURSELVES INTO SITUATIONS,,, THAT WE CAN'T GET OUT OF,,, WITHOUT: ***"THE SHEPHERD"***!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, WE NEED A SHEPHERD!  
SOMEONE TO GUIDE US SAFELY,,, THROUGH THIS FRIGHTENING WORLD OF OURS,,, AND IT'S SOMETHING WE CAN NOT DO ALONE!

***THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A MOMENT. WHO IS IT,,, IN ALL THE WORLD,,, WHO KNOWS YOU THE BEST?***

***YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE? YOUR FATHER OR MOTHER? HOW ABOUT YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER? PERHAPS YOUR BEST FRIEND?***

WHO IS IT,,, THAT KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING,,, AND SAYS IT,,, EVEN BEFORE YOU DO?

ONLY YOU CAN ANSWER THAT ONE,,, BUT,,, NO HUMAN BEING KNOWS YOU,,, BETTER THAN YOURSELF! BUT,,, EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE,,, WE MUST NEVER FORGET HOW WELL JESUS KNOWS US!

SCRIPTURE TELLS US,,, THAT JESUS SAID,,, THAT HE KNOWS EACH ONE OF HIS SHEEP,,, HE KNOWS OUR STRENGTHS,,, HE KNOWS OUR WEAKNESSES AND,,, HE KNOWS OUR TRUE CHARACTER.

YES,,, JESUS KNOWS US TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY! BUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF US,,, GOES A LOT DEEPER. IN (*PSALMS 139:13*),,, SCRIPTURE SAYS:

***“FOR YOU CREATED MY INMOST BEING,,, YOU KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHERS WOMB”.***

THAT SCRIPTURE IN JEREMIAH,,, SPOKE OF JEREMIAH PERSONALLY.

JESUS KNEW US,,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, ***BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD!***

AND HE KNEW YOUR NAME,,, BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN BORN!

HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT US,,, WHAT WE DID TODAY,,, WHAT WE’RE GOING TO DO TOMORROW,,, WHAT WE’RE THINKING,,, AND EVEN,,,

***OUR MOST SECRET THOUGHTS!***

MANY PEOPLE KEEP DIARIES OF THEIR DAILY AND EVEN YEARLY THOUGHTS,,, AND ACTIONS,,, AND YES,,, EVEN YOUR TOP SECRETS.

CAN YOU IMAGINE,,, WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE,,, IF “***SOMEONE***” ELSE,,, DECIDED TO READ YOUR DIARY? EVERYTHING THAT’S IMPORTANT TO YOU,,, YOU PUT IN THAT DIARY!

EVERY DAY,,, “***JESUS***” IS READING YOUR DIARY,,, YOUR MOST PERSONAL,,, INNERMOST,,, THOUGHTS. “***JESUS***” KNOWS YOU,,, INSIDE AND OUT,,, AND YET,,, HE LOVES YOU DEEPLY,,, BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOUR STRUGGLES,,, YOUR BELIEFS AND YOUR DREAMS. IN ESSENCE,,, HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, YOU KNOW “**JESUS**”,,, BUT PROBABLY NOT AS WELL,,, AS YOU COULD,,, AND YOU MAY HAVE NO IDEA,,, JUST HOW DEEPLY “**JESUS**” FEELS ABOUT YOU.

IF YOU DID,,, THEN,,, YOU’D BE TOTALLY EXCITED,,, AT HOW ACCEPTED AND DEEPLY LOVED YOU ARE!

BECAUSE,,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, **JESUS** IS:

**OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,, AND,, OUR GREAT SHEPHERD!**

JESUS IS OUR SHEPHERD AND WE NEED TO HEAR HIS VOICE AND LISTEN TO HIM,,, BECAUSE THOUGH SOMETIMES,,, WE DON’T SEE IT;

*JESUS DESIRES TO SHARE HIS LOVE,,, IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE,,, WITH HIM,,, UNTIL WE REACH ETERNAL LIFE,,, WITH HIM.*

*ONLY ONE MAN IN ALL OF HISTORY,,, EVER CLAIMED TO HAVE THE KEY TO ETERNAL LIFE. HIS NAME,,, IS: **JESUS CHRIST**,,, AND HE PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE,,, TO ALL HIS SHEEP,,, WHO BELIEVE IN HIM!*

JESUS WOULD NEVER LEAD YOU,,, TO ANY PLACE,,, OTHER THAN A PLACE OF TOTAL LOVE. HE PROVED THAT,,, WHEN HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE,,, FOR YOU AND ME,,, ON THE CROSS AT CALVARY,, FOR OUR SINS. WHEN THE SHEPHERD GOES TO THE SHEEP PEN AND CALLS HIS SHEEP BY NAME,,, THE SHEEP RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE AND THEY RESPOND TO THE CALL OF THE SHEPHERD.

DEARLY BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,,

**SCRIPTURE TELLS US,,, THAT REDEEMED SHEEP WILL FOLLOW THEIR SHEPHERDS VOICE,,, INTO ETERNAL LIFE,,, AND NO ONE,,, AND I MEAN,,, NO ONE,,, WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THEM OUT OF THE SHEPHERDS HANDS!**

IN ANCIENT BIBLE TIMES,,, SCRIPTURE SAYS; THAT THE SHEPHERDS WOULD LEAD THE SHEEP

**“TO GREEN PASTURES AND STILL WATERS”.**

BUT SOMETIMES,,, SOME OF THE SHEEP,,, WOULD STOP FOLLOWING AND WANDER OFF,,, ON THEIR OWN,,, (*JUST LIKE SOME PEOPLE DO TODAY*).

THEN,,, THE SHEPHERD WOULD HAVE TO GO AFTER THEM,,, AND USING HIS STAFF,,, HE WOULD PULL THE SHEEP BACK TO THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

SOMETIMES,,, *THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT JESUS HAS TO DO WITH US,,, WHEN WE TURN AWAY FROM FOLLOWING HIM. WHEN WE WANDER OFF,,, AND WE WILL,,, FROM TIME TO TIME,,, THAT'S WHEN JESUS USES HIS STAFF,,, (THE HOLY SPIRIT) TO PULL US BACK ONTO THE RIGHT DIRECTION.*

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE SOMETIMES REBELLIOUS,,, BEING PART OF THE FLOCK,,, MEANS FOLLOWING CHRIST AND ACCEPTING HIM,,, AS OUR SHEPHERD AND OUR SAVIOR!

BY ACCEPTING HIS LOVE,,, HIS GRACE,,, AND HIS FORGIVENESS,,, INTO OUR HEARTS BY FAITH,,, WE'VE BECOME

***"ONE WITH THE SHEPHERD,,, AND ONE OF HIS SHEEP"***

BECAUSE OF THIS,,, WE HAVE THE ASSURANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,,, OF OUR ETERNAL SALVATION.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, AS SHEEP OF THE SHEPHERD JESUS CHRIST,,, WE CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY AND AUTHORITY,,, THAT;

***AND PLEASE REPEAT THESE WORDS AFTER ME!***

***"I CHOOSE TO LISTEN TO THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE!  
I HAVE NO DOUBT AND I KNOW FOR SURE,,,  
THAT I HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP,,,  
WITH MY LORD JESUS CHRIST,,,  
AND I HAVE HIS ASSURANCE,,,  
OF MY ETERNAL SALVATION".***

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,,, AND OF THE SON,,, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

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1,265 Wds, 5 Pgs





















**+++AMEN+++**

**1492 Wds, 6 Pages**