**Witham United Reformed Church**

**Bible Study for week commencing 7th June 2021**

**Theme; Humility and self worth**

Last month my youngest daughter finally completed her university studies and started seeking full time employment. Emily has a quiet unassuming character, and she was dreading the day she had to go for that first job interview. She is very capable, but really doesn’t like talking about herself. Therefore she went for advice on interview technique, and was told that she had to ‘sell’ herself; if she didn’t put forward a strong case to be the successful applicant, then nobody else would. When she arrived at the interview she was asked all the normal questions about why she should be given the job, and she responded that she had all the necessary requirements and would do her best to succeed. She got the job.

It has been said that unless we love ourselves we cannot love others. However, if you watch programs like ‘The Apprentice’, being confident in ones own abilities is a short jump away from being arrogant and superior. How do we exude confidence whilst remaining humble?

**Reading; Luke 14 v 7-14**

**Open with Prayer**

1/ Share experiences when you have witnessed great acts of humility. How did it make you feel?

2/ Why do you think Donald Trump gained such an incredible following?

3/ In vs 7-10; Jesus was the guest of a senior Religious leader, a Pharisee. He noticed how the religious pecking order was practised and suggested a wise solution. How could we mirror this in our own lives and the life of the Church?

4/ Verse 11 is significant for Christians, for we believe that what we do in this life will affect our standing in the next. If we are humble in this life we will be exalted in the next. In the current world where many don’t believe in an afterlife, and the cult of celebrity thrives, there are so many massive ego’s who compete for space and time on our TV’s - how do we promote humility?

5/ vs 12-14 offer a real lesson in humility. When was the last time you invited someone who was poor, lonely or struggling into your home? How did it go?

6/ ‘False humility’ is a trap we can all fall into. Discuss.

7/ Is there a difference between humility and self worth?

Can they co-exist? Jesus humbled himself to death on the cross, but he never denied being the precious Son of God.

8/ Genesis tells us we are all created in the image of God. We are all unique and have purpose; we are loved. So many people in our town struggle with issues of self worth, how can we help them?

9/ Where do you gain your feelings of self worth?

10/ Say one thing to each member of your group to highlight the ways they have blessed you and others.

**Finish with prayer.**