Witham United Reformed Church

Bible Study to accompany WURC service Sunday 16th May 2021

Theme; Trust

You can ‘believe’ someone but still not ‘trust’ them. I am having some work done on the manse bathroom, and I have had to get three quotes from plumbers. I believe each one when they advise what is the best way to fix the problem, but I struggle to really trust them to do the job well. I don’t know if they are reliable, whether they will turn up on the day they propose to start, whether they will seek to find loads more work which will push the cost up, whether they will finish the job on time, or go off to another job halfway through. I believe they have the skills to fix my problem, but how do I get to trust them?

Well, my trust will be built if they get their quotes in on time, if they charge a reasonable price for their work, and if I can find out from some of their past clients whether their work has been completed well. With this information one of the three plumbers will be chosen; we will trust them to do the job, and if they do it well we will know we can use them again in the future or recommend them to others; real trust must be earned. Trust is at the heart of every good relationship.

Read; John 14 vs 1-13

Open with prayer

Questions;

1/ In the previous chapter, Jesus tells the disciples, that he will be leaving them, and they will not be able to follow him. The man they believed to be the messiah surely had to become king of Israel and deliver his people. They are confused and upset. How does Jesus attempt to calm them? (vs 1-6)

2/ What is Jesus asking his disciples to believe (v 14)?

3/ Do you think the disciples really knew what Jesus was talking about? Where was his father’s house? Was it Joseph’s house in Nazareth, Gods house (the Temple), or somewhere else?

4/ Jesus seems to expect his disciples to ‘believe’ in him in vs 1-6, and in verses 7-11 asks him to ‘trust in him’. In these verses there are at least two reasons why Jesus says he should be trusted?

5/ vs 13 and 14 must have given the disciples great assurance but are they just a blank cheque to ask for anything?

6/ Was this prayer specifically for the disciples, or can we claim this for our own?

7/ What has led you to put your trust in Jesus?

8/ What can we do to build our trust?

9/ Read Proverbs 3; 5-6 and Jeremiah 17 v 7-8, encourage one another!

Finish with prayer…