**Witham United Reformed Church**

**Bible Study for week commencing 21st June 2021**

**Theme; ‘Victory’**

Many of us struggle with the term ‘victory’ when thinking about the gospel of Jesus Christ. I think it is that the gospel itself was both a terrible loss as well as a complete success. We most often think of ‘victory’ after a battle, when foes are vanquished and the spoils are ours. Victory is ‘over’ someone else, it means that I am glorified and they are demeaned; all very emotive themes, and ones that seem an anathema to the gospel.

The reading today is from Luke 10, and recalls a time after Jesus had trained up a team of evangelists, and sent them around the nation of Israel to share the good news, heal the sick and advise people that the Kingdom of God had come. Jesus gave his authority to the team and assured them of the power that was at their disposal.

Nowadays, things are so very different, or are they?

**Read Luke 10 vs 1-23**

**Prayer; ask God to speak through his written word.**

**Questions;**

1/ v 10; Why do you think Jesus sent his followers out two by two?

Is there significance in where he sent them?

2/ vs 2-3; Do we acknowledge and pray for each other as evangelists?

What is the danger we may face?

3/ Why the advice in v 4?

4/ V 5; When you enter someone else’s house, do you say ‘peace to this house’? What do you think the host might respond?

5/ vs 6-16; The advice to the people who Jesus was sending out is very black and white. If they listen they will be blessed, and if they do not they will suffer the consequences. How do you feel about this in the light of what you know about God?

6/ When the seventy returned, they were clearly excited and amazed at what they could do in the power of God. V 17. They had taken Jesus words literally, and had moved in his authority, seeing healings and miracles. Why do we, fellow followers of Jesus, so rarely have these kinds of experience?

7/ Jesus talks about ‘seeing Satan fall’ in v 18. What do you think he meant by this?

8/ What do you make of verse 19?

9/ v 20; Why do you think Jesus suddenly changed the tone of the conversation, returning to the joy of their own salvation?

10/ What kind of victory are we celebrating today?

**Finish with prayer; pray for each other, especially in our role of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.**