

Thought for the day – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Me and Us

It was lovely to meet up with ministers from other churches yesterday, and it was the first time we had done so as a large group from before the pandemic. One of those present, said how good it was to share and listen to how others were doing, even if it's something very different to our experience, in the sharing is a common encouragement and strengthening.

I have been reflecting this week on how our faith is both individual and corporate. We come to faith and choose to follow Jesus individually, personally, and baptism and confirmation are the signs of that. But baptism births us into a new family, a new community, and we grow in our faith together, we meet together on a Sunday to worship God, and we join together in the mission of the church.

The story of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well, bring both the individual and the corporate together. She believes first, for herself, but then through her story, the whole village comes to faith in Jesus.

As we set out in this new year, let us be mindful of both, the need for a personal response, growth and act in faith, and to not stop meeting together as a church. Its often been said, that the prayer that Jesus taught which most people remember, does not have I, or me in it, but our and us!

<sup>9</sup> (Jesus said:): "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,<sup>[a]</sup>  
but deliver us from the evil one.

- *Matthew 6:9-13*