Sermon: **Everyone who makes himself great will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be made great.** (Luke 14.11)

In 1985 I was in a play called: ‘In Case the Queen Looks In’ about a farmer who believes royalty is about to pay a visit. It was an April Fool joke. But what if Queen did come here?   
Who would get to sit beside her? Who would serve her?

Pride is belief you are superior to others.   
TEXT. Why? Because there are competitors and critics out there waiting to expose your weaknesses!   
To stay ‘great’ pride removes colleagues who might be helpful in favour of those who are cronies.

TEXT – it will all turn to custard eventually. Soap operas have such persons, and it source of pleasure when they get their comeuppance. The Germans have a word for it: schadenfreude.

Pride is not limited to leaders. Where is the best place to sit at church? For many it is at the back where they can see everyone and less seen by preacher! Feeling aggrieved if not visited enough, might come from pride. Not letting others help you when you really need it, could be pride.

TEXT – sounds perverse, and you get the opposite of what you want. So what is humility then?

When the queen comes humility is not sitting in lowest place if you actually believe you should be at the best place, or even somewhere in the middle – that is just playing mind games and is false humility.

Humility also isn’t doing yourself down, or pretending you have nothing to offer.   
This is not attractive.

“Humility is the virtue of being yourself naturally and comfortably, and of relating to people in such a way that you encourage in them the same straightforward, honesty decency.”

Eg Eliza McCarthy and her reaction to winning bronze in the pole vault.

Humility is *dependence* on God, *service* to others, *realistic* assessment of self.

This humility is attractive and others will see true greatness in it. TEXT.