

Hinckley United Reformed Church

Prayers for the week beginning Monday 31st July

Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus Calms the Storm

²³ When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And suddenly a violent storm arose on the sea, so that the boat was being covered by the waves; but Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ And the disciples went and woke Him, saying “ Lord, save us! We are going to die” ²⁶ He said to them, “ Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was [at once] a great and wonderful calm [a perfect peacefulness]. ²⁷ The men wondered in amazement, saying, “ What kind of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him?” (Amplified Bible)

Mon 31st The disciples followed Jesus wherever He went. They listened to what He said and watched what He did. Lord we pray that you help us to follow you more closely, to be attentive to what you are doing in our lives and in the world. Pray that we will respond to your direction and guidance to us and that we will join you in bringing about your will.

Tues 1st Sometimes problems and difficulties come out of the blue and catch us unaware and this is true whatever our age and experience. At other times one thing comes after another and each wave of issues weakens us and our ability to cope. But when we stay close to Jesus whatever storms come we can surf the waves; we can remain standing. Pray Lord that you will give us the strength to ride the waves of life; trusting in you at all times.

Wed 2nd The disciples turned to the Lord to save them, as we all have done. Asking Jesus to help us is something we need to do all the time. Pray that we accept our dependence upon Jesus and stop trying to do things in our own strength, to rid ourselves of the notion that some things are too trivial for Him and not to delay

coming to Him waiting for a better time; the present time is always the best time and it never inconvenient to Him.

Thurs 3rd Like the disciples our trust in Jesus can at times be found wanting when we are tested. We give thanks that we do not serve a God who gives up on us when we fail: it was the sea that Jesus rebuked not the disciples. We thank you Lord that with you we do not have to be afraid and pray that we will work with you to strengthen our faith.

Fri 4th The wonderful calm and perfect peacefulness described in this incident can only be enjoyed through spending dedicated time with Jesus. We pray Lord that, however busy our lives, we do not neglect carving out time with Jesus, when we can slow down and be still with Him, when we can have true rest that He knows that we need and that He longs to bring us.

Sat 5th Does Jesus continue to amaze us? We pray Lord that we never lose that sense of wonder of your magnificence, your might, your wisdom and your beauty. Continue to inspire us Lord to seek to emulate all those qualities that you embody.

Sun 6th The key to a peaceful and calm life is to look to Jesus and be obedient to Him. Lord you know that obedience does not come naturally to us, that at heart we are rebels who seek to go our own way. We pray that you help us to know your will for our lives and to forgo our own will and submit to your will knowing and accepting that your way is the best way even when it is contrary to our way of thinking.