



**Leaders:** choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

### Study 3 – Luke 23:26-49 Crucifixion

You make like to begin by reading the passage again or at least making sure everyone has it open.

1. Is there anything that stood out for you from the passage or the message? New insights?

Erica pointed out that Luke 23 looks like the story of a Saviour who needs saving – of a King who is conquered. Such a dramatic downfall! And that is how it appears to Jesus’ opponents and doubters! However, precisely the opposite is happening! We see a different kind of King!

#### A tragedy for us

2. Women were mourning. But in v28, what is Jesus’ response? What did Jesus mean? (If you’re stuck, look at the text of Erica’s talk or that part of the video again.)
3. Why was Jesus’ torture and death, worse for the world watching it, then it will be for him?

#### The real King revealed

When we consider death, we want it to be gentle, surrounded by people who love and care, and for it to be dignified. Jesus’ death was humiliating, painful and lonely! (vv32-29)

4. What unified people who would usually have nothing to do with each other: Roman soldiers, Jewish religious leaders and life-long criminals?
5. What was the irony of the taunts Jesus endured: ‘he saved others, but he can’t save himself’? What is the brilliant – stunning – impact of Jesus choosing NOT to save himself at this point – even though he most surely could have stepped off the cross at any point?

They demand that Jesus prove himself to be the Messiah and King of the Jews – ‘IF you are the Messiah’, etc – but, their mocking of Jesus shows they believe this situation proves their point entirely – that he is NONE of what he claims to be! He has failed at the Messiah job-description and is marked as a criminal!

6. How would you challenge someone who comments to you that they see Jesus’ death as just another tragedy from the ancient world of a would-be Messiah who was self-deluded?

#### What Jesus’ death achieves

7. One criminal saw something different in Jesus – v42. What was he asking for from Jesus? What is the irony of the one person in the centre of the scene who comprehended who Jesus is?

His opponents are right – Jesus is NOT the sort of King they were expecting. He is the kind that God would send! A King of mercy! At his point of death, he promises mercy to the criminal and calls out for forgiveness for his enemies! Jesus had promised a death for sinners; a death that brings forgiveness; and he is not giving up on that goal!

8. Discuss Erica’s final challenge: if you want to be congratulated on your goodness; if you see yourself as so very different from more notorious sinners (a cut above!); if you want to be protected from ridicule; then you need to look for another King! But if you want to be forgiven for your sin; if you want to be welcomed into a kingdom where all people are united by grace; if you want to see how hope can triumph even in the darkest darkness... then you need the King that is Jesus!

*Share something you've learnt from the message and discussion. Give thanks for Jesus' death and all it means.*