

# CENTERGROVE CHURCH

*Scriptures for further study*

Hebrews 12:2 | Romans 5:8 | 1 Peter 2:24-25 | Philippians 2:8

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Luke 23:33-46

*“Luke’s portrait of Christ on the Cross is the portrait of the perfect mediator, standing in the breach between a Holy God and infected people and making a way for humanity to be healed and restored to their Creator.”*

*-Dr. Steve Cortis*

1. Luke describes how Jesus was crucified between two criminals. What might Jesus’ position between such people communicate to those watching? When we see the cross of Jesus, what are we supposed to see?
2. Luke includes three statements that Jesus made from the cross. The first one is in verse 34. Jesus speaks to God for mankind, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” What stands out to you about Jesus’ prayer?
3. As followers of Jesus today, what do we communicate to the world when they see us loving people who are difficult to love?
4. Secondly, on the cross, Jesus speaks to mankind for God (verses 35-43), “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” How does Jesus’ promise to the criminal apply to all who turn to faith in Him?
5. The second criminal’s admittance of his unjust life is an example for us of a repentant heart. How would you describe repentance? Why is a repentant heart necessary for salvation?
6. Finally, on the cross, Jesus surrenders Himself to bring God and mankind together (verses 44-46), “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” How does Jesus’ statement in verse 46 show that He was in control to the very end of His life?
7. The cross is the sign that the impossible has become possible – complete forgiveness is real. What aspects of the gospel message do you see in these verses? What is one specific way you can imitate Christ’s humility and sacrifice this coming week?