

## Bible Chat week starting 20 11 22

### Luke 23: 33 - 43

*33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[34 Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35 And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37 and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' 38 There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'*

*39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' 42 Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 43 He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'*

1. How do you respond emotionally to this reading?
2. If someone asks you - why did Jesus have to suffer and die in this way? - how would you respond?
3. So many aspects of human life are judged by the cross. What sort of things might be inspired to die away as we meditate on the cross?
4. How might the cross change our views of leadership? In what ways is Jesus a king or a leader?
5. Is Jesus **your** king? If so, what does that actually mean?
6. How do you feel about the seasons of autumn and winter - times of letting go and darkness, dormancy and dying away?
7. What needs to die for you, personally?
8. What needs to die away in the church?
9. What should die away in the world at large?