



*Church Everywhere*  
WORKSHEET  
SALVATION

**PART** Grab your bible and spend some time reading and reflecting around the following scriptures–

**I**

Luke 23: 32 – 43; Isaiah 53; Mark 15:16 – 20

Ask yourself the following questions as you read:

- What stands out to you about the suffering of Jesus?
- What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us through his response to the second criminal on the cross?
- What is the connection between suffering and salvation? Why was it necessary for Jesus to suffer?

**Reflecting on Jesus' words from the cross 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.' Susanna observed:**

Jesus would have been bloodied, barely recognisable when He opened up His heart to this criminal dying beside Him. Often when we are suffering we think, 'I don't have it all together, how could I possibly help anybody else? But Jesus demonstrates that in the midst of deep wounding, of deep pain and suffering, it is possible to reach out and meet someone else in the midst of their suffering. Like Jesus, we can put aside our own needs and become a wounded healer. Jesus held out His wounded hands to Thomas, we need to hold out our wounded hands to others.

**PART** Susanna and Andrew explored the two different heart responses of the criminals on the cross to Jesus.

**II**

One openly mocks and judges and sarcastically states, 'If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.' The other responds with humility and honesty, 'We deserve what we are getting, but this Man has done nothing wrong.' And he asks Jesus, '...remember me when You come into Your kingdom.' Susanna observed that pain and suffering are great revealers, they strip away all masks and give us the opportunity to see ourselves and others clearly.

- What does pain and suffering reveal about you?
- How close do you feel to Jesus?
- Is pain and suffering keeping you at a distance or is it driving you into the arms of the One who is mere metres away?

**MORE ON PAGE 2 ▶**



## PART III

In their conversation Andrew and Susanna explored the significance of Jesus' actions on the cross:

These last moments of Jesus capture the gospel, presented equally to all people, offering us all the same terms. We are being presented the gospel today, Jesus reaching out and saying, 'You can be with Me in Paradise.' We all get a chance to 'see' and 'respond'. Like the thieves we all have a choice to cry out, 'Remember me' or to live our lives on our own terms and 'receive the due reward of our deeds.'

- Have you cried out to God, 'Remember me'? Have you responded to Jesus' offer of relationship and salvation?

## PART IV

Susanna explored some of the things that cause us to miss God's salvation, miss the presence of God, and keep us from the plans He has for us. These were:

- Self-complacency: a smug, uncritical satisfaction with yourself and your position or achievements.
- Self-righteousness: believing that your ideas and your behaviour are morally better than those of other people.
- Self-sufficiency: when you believe you can supply your own needs and you have an extreme confidence in your own resources and in your own power.

**Spend some time prayerfully reflecting on your life, are any of these three things at work in you?**

If so, respond in humility (the quality of not being proud because you are aware of your flaws) and honesty (being truthful and hiding nothing). Bring these areas of your life to Jesus.

## PART V

At the end of their conversation Susanna called us to reflect on one clear reality:

Salvation is costly! Jesus had many voices challenging His call and telling Him to give up but He stayed on the cross, showing us that people are worth fighting for, worth suffering for— He taught us that for profound change to take place, there will always be a profound cost.

- Have you felt like giving up? If so, ask God to meet you right now in your suffering.
- Consider the people in your life. Are there people who you are fighting for? Suffering for? Who do you invite into your home? Do you sit with people in the midst of their darkest moments?

**Prayer:** Father we admit that we are all wounded and have needs. We ask You to meet us in the midst of our journey. We ask for Your heart so we can reach out to others and make room in our lives for those who need Your nearness and salvation. May we learn to be wounded healers. We ask that You help us to confront our self-complacency, self-righteousness and self-sufficiency so that they no longer rob us of Your presence and the plans You have for our lives. Enfold us in the warmth of Your love and grace. Amen.

Close by spending some time in dedicated prayer for one another.

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