

## Evotional

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2007 (am).

**Speaker:** Neil Durling.

**Message title:** “Journey to the centre of God: Salvation.”

**Bible passage:** Luke 23:26-49:

*This passage is too long to be shown here.*



### **The message in brief:**

Jesus said: “But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (John 12:32). The film “La Dolce Vita” starts with a stone statue of Jesus being hung from a helicopter and flown across Rome. Deadness hangs in the air and flies over a variety of life below. We see a Jesus full of life hanging on the cross in Luke surrounded by the stone deadness of humanity. We see...

- Simon of Cyrene forced to carry the cross behind Jesus.
- Wailing women, who are putting on a performance, which Jesus challenges.
- Indifferent and brutal soldiers who crucify Jesus. His response? “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”
- A watching crowd who passively see Jesus crucified.
- The sneering, triumphal religious rulers who mock Jesus: “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”
- Two criminals (“... he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.” Isaiah 53:12), one a sarcastic blasphemer: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” and the other a humble pleader: “Don’t you fear God?” “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingly power.” Jesus’ response to the latter is: “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” Paradise is the word used for the garden of Eden which was a place of salvation. The Hebrew for salvation is: “To bring into a spacious environment.”
- The Centurion who hears Jesus quote Psalm 31:5: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” and believes Jesus to be righteous and innocent.
- Those who knew Jesus and the women who came from Galilee and stood (defeated or submissively?) at a respectful distance.

At the cross we hear wailing, sneering, shouting, pleading, questioning and in the midst of it a carpenter prays; he prays for me and for you.

This passage shows us two things:

- There are no lengths to which we won’t go to rid ourselves of God.
- There is no depth to which he won’t go to save us.

“We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear; but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there.”

### **Question:**

Do you hear Jesus praying for you and your salvation on the cross?

### **A prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Thank you for dying to bring me salvation; that wide open space of freedom with you.  
Amen.