

Bound4LIFE – The Mercy Seat

Seven Hour Prayer Guide

Jesus has forever made a way to the throne of God by his blood. We now appeal to a Court that's higher than the courts of earth.

Just like the priests who sprinkled the blood of the sin offering seven times on **THE MERCY SEAT** (Lev 16:14-15), Jesus also sprinkled his blood seven times from the Garden of Gethsemane to Calvary. On this day we apply the blood of the perfect Passover Lamb to the doorposts of America. This outline will use each of today's seven hours to focus on the seven ways that Jesus sprinkled his own blood.

"Only glimpses of the great importance of prayer could the apostles get before Pentecost. But the Spirit coming and filling on Pentecost elevated prayer to its vital and all-commanding position in the gospel of Christ. The call now of prayer to every saint is the Spirit's loudest and most exigent call. Sainthood's piety is made, refined, perfected, by prayer. The gospel moves with slow and timid pace when the saints are not at their prayers early and late and long."

-E.M. Bounds, "Praying Pulpit Begets a Praying Pew"

I. HOUR ONE, 9–10 AM

44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Lk 22:44 NKJV)

27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!" (Jn 12:27-28 NIV)

It is truly a picture of blood, sweat and tears—Jesus "going a little further" in the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. What a privilege it would have been to eavesdrop on a prayer meeting between the Son and the Father at that most critical moment. Oh, to know what is on Jesus' heart and be able to pray what he prays.

Meditation

Can you see yourself resting your head on Jesus' chest like John did? Can you hear his heartbeat? Shhhh—listen closely. What do you think is on his heart? Today an *estimated* 50 million dreams of Heaven have been legally aborted in America since 1973. Every baby in the womb first originated in the heart and mind of God. How does the Father feel when His dreams are aborted? One

third of this generation has never had the chance to fulfill God's purposes in the earth.

II. HOUR TWO, 10–11 AM

67 Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him 68 and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" (Mt 26:67 NIV)

65 Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. "Prophecy to us," they jeered. And the guards slapped him as they took him away. (Mk 14:65 NLT)

63 The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. 64 They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" (Lk 22:63-64 NIV)

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (Is 53:7 NIV)

17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord... (Jn 10:17-18 NIV)

Jesus' face was severely beaten as he was mocked at the hands of the Chief Priests. Two days of blood came together in Jesus—the Passover and the Day of Atonement. Jesus is our Passover Lamb and had to be sacrificed. According to Jewish law, they were supposed to take care of the sacrificial lamb (Ex 12:6). Instead, in ignorance they abused and beat him.

Meditation

As the perfect and innocent Lamb Jesus didn't try to defend Himself or stop what was happening. As a perfect, once-and-for-all sacrifice His blood did what the blood of animals could never do—cleanse our conscience from the guilt of sin. *"Oh the blood of Jesus! It washes white as snow."* Can you picture a great revival coming to America? Imagine our nation begin swept into a glorious awakening to the atoning blood of Christ. It's an awakening that touches our innermost being and also the laws of the land. Ask God to do what He already wants to do...glorify His Son.

"I think that one of the offenses of revival, in the historic sense, is that it cannot be organized. As Doctor Tozer said, 'When revival comes it changes the moral climate of a community.' You can have revival that covers a church—Spurgeon had that. You can have a revival that covers a

city. You can have a revival that covers the whole nation—and I am thinking in this context more than in the other contexts (though sometimes revival spreads from here to there—like fire spreads.)"

-Leonard Ravenhill, "Revival Definition"

III. HOOR THREE, 11 AM–12 PM

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. (Is 50:6 NIV)

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. (He 10:19-22 NIV)

Jesus' beard was brutally pulled out as they mocked him. Little did they know that they were spitting on the Great High Priest of their eternal souls. Every year on the Day of Atonement the high priests of the Old Testament would sprinkle blood on the mercy seat and on the ground eastward toward the people signifying that it was for them.

Meditation

As our Great High Priest Jesus presented His own blood to atone for our sin once-and-for-all. Through faith in that blood, He has forever made a way for us to come into God's presence in confidence. Jesus' blood is the *only* merit in which we stand before God; that *never* changes. In faith-filled confidence and boldness, cry out to God for mercy on behalf of the nation—people that "know not what they do." Read [Daniel 9](#), and use it as a model for repenting on behalf of *our* people. Pray for mercy on behalf of a nation that has approved of the shedding of innocent blood through its courts and laws.

IV. HOOR FOUR, 12–1 PM

26 Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. (Mt 27:26 NIV)

15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. (Mk 15:15 NIV)

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. (Jn 19:1 NIV)

4 Surely He has borne our grief's and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Is 53:4-5 NKJV)

14 ...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chr 7:14 NIV)

Jesus' back and sides were ripped open as He was scourged. These "stripes" were seen by the Prophet Isaiah and the Apostle Peter to be for our healing.

Meditation

Beyond our personal need for healing consider that the land itself needs to be healed. The Bible says that the shedding of innocent blood literally pollutes the land (Nu 35:33). Yet when the Church responds to God through humility, prayer, hunger and repentance, He promises to "heal their land." To live under the blessing of God is infinitely better than any existence we can seek out under a curse. Bloodguilt affects the nation in more realms than we can possibly imagine like national security, the economy and war. Ask God for a revelation of blood to come to America. More importantly, ask Him for a revelation of Christ's blood that speaks better things (He 12:24) than the innocent blood of 50 million children.

V. HOOR FIVE, 1–2 PM

29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Mt 27:29 NIV)

17 And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, 18 and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Mk 15:17-18 NIV)

2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. 3 Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Jn 19:2-3 NIV)

3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? (Rm 2:3-4 NIV)

The soldiers hammered a crown of thorns onto Jesus' head. They mocked him as a make-believe king. Little did they know that this lamb would return as a lion.

Meditation

We appeal to the righteous Judge of the earth for great mercy and speedy justice. We are thankful for each small victory in the fight to end abortion, but we need something dramatic. This stronghold must come down. The cries of the innocent are ever before God, so we do not misunderstand His longsuffering and patience. Be acutely aware that His timing is motivated by love and mercy. He will always use the least severe means to touch the maximum number of people at the deepest level. Continue to cry out for mercy on behalf of a nation that deserves judgment. Today, more than ever, we need mercy to triumph over judgment. Remember, he that is forgiven much loves much. Can you picture a nation that turns to love God in a way that's proportionate to the wrongs we're forgiven?

VI. HOUR SIX, 2–3 PM

33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). 34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. (Mt 27:33-35 NIV)

22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. (Mk 15:22-24 NIV)

33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Lk 23:33-34 NIV)

17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18 Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. (Jn 19:17-18 NIV)

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became

obedient to death—even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Php 2:5-11 NIV)

30 "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. (Ez 22:30 NIV)

Jesus hands and feet were nailed to a cross in crucifixion. What looked like utter defeat stands as the symbol of God's glorious victory over sin.

Meditation

Even in his final moments of life Jesus used what little breath he had to plead for mercy for the people executing him. This is the model of intercession—to remain fully committed to mercy no matter how painful it might be. Jesus could have come off of the cross if he chose to. Instead, he declared that, "It's over my dead body," that the curse would continue. Even now he sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. Could the same be said of us as we pursue Christ-likeness? Ezekiel 22:30 says that God is *looking* for volunteer intercessors. Right now you could be the only thing that stands between God's judgment and a rebellious nation. Pause, and let that thought sink in a little bit. Let your posture and determination be like Christ right now. See yourself applying His Blood to the doorposts of the nation. Your *value* of the Blood can never be greater than what the Father says it is, but it must not be less.

VII. HOUR SEVEN, 3–4 PM

32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. (Jn 19:32-34 NIV)

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions... (Is 53:5 NIV)

10 ...They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. (Zec 12:10 NIV)

12 They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations. (Nu 9:12 NIV)

