



After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmering snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move. 5-6 The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. 7 "Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. That's the message.'" 8-10 The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there." **Matthew 28:1-10** (MP)

MERCY DEFINED: _____

EASTER ANSWERS THE QUESTION, WHEN DO I NEED GOD'S MERCY?

1. I need God's mercy _____.

Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert Me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ... ³³ Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts You, I will never desert You." ³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know Me." ³⁵ "No!" Peter insisted. "Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You!" ... **Matthew 26:31-35** (NLT)

Arresting Jesus, they marched him off and took him into the house of the chief Priest. Peter followed, but at a safe distance. ⁵⁵In the middle of the courtyard some people had started a fire and were sitting around it, trying to keep warm. ⁵⁶ One of the serving maids sitting at the fire noticed him, then took a second look and said, "This man was with him!" ⁵⁷ He denied it, "Woman, I don't even know him." ⁵⁸ A short time later, someone else noticed him and said, "You're one of them." But Peter denied it: "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ About an hour later, someone else spoke up, really adamant: "He's got to have been with him! He's got 'Galilean'

written all over him." ⁶⁰ Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about." At that very moment, the last word hardly off his lips, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ Just then, the Master turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered what the Master had said to him: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." ⁶² He went out and cried and cried and cried. **Luke 22:54-62** (MP)

God's mercy reassures me and restores me.

The man said, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was nailed to a cross. God has raised him to life, and he isn't here. You can see the place where they put his body. ⁷ Now go and tell his disciples, and especially Peter, that he will go ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." **Mark 16:6-7** (CEV)

O Lord, you are so good and kind, so ready to forgive, so full of mercy for all who ask your aid. **Psalm 86:5** (NIV)

2. I need God's mercy _____.

A written notice was placed above him. It said, "This is the king of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals hanging there insulted Jesus by saying, "So you're really the Messiah, are you? Well, save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal scolded him: "Don't you fear God at all? Can't you see that you're condemned in the same way that he is? ⁴¹ Our punishment is fair. We're getting what we deserve. But this man hasn't done anything wrong." ⁴² then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus said..., "I can guarantee this truth: Today you will be with me in paradise." **Luke 23:38-43** (GW)

Mercy turns _____!

Life everlasting has victoriously swallowed death. ⁵⁵ Hey, Death! What happened to your big win? Hey, Death! What happened to your sting? **1 Cor. 15:54-55** (VOICE)

EASTER ANSWERS THE QUESTION, HOW DO I RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY?

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead **1 Peter 1:3** (NIV)

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to have you, to sift you like wheat, ³² but I have pleaded in prayer for you that your faith should not completely fail So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen and build up the faith of your brothers." **Luke 31:31-32** (LB)

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. **John 1:9-13** (NIV)