



For you will...prepare the way for the Lord ⁷⁷ So that the Lord's people will receive knowledge ...salvation through the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ **All this will flow from the kind and compassionate mercy of our God. A new day is dawning:** the Sunrise...will break through in our darkness, ⁷⁹ And those who huddle in night, those who sit in the shadow of death, Will be able to rise and walk in the light, guided in the pathway of peace. **Luke 1:76-79 (VOICE)**

MERCY DEFINED: _____ kindness and _____ forgiveness.

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

1. When I am_ashamed: I need God's mercy when I've _____.

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 ...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.... 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 _____ and _____ 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. When I am afraid: I need God's mercy when I am _____.

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 deserved _____ into undeserved _____!

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 _____ 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)

- I _____ to Jesus

"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)

- I _____ Jesus.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. **John 1:12** (NIV)

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38** (NIV)

He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. **Titus 3:5** (NLT)

Baptism, which is like that water, now saves you. Baptism doesn't save by removing dirt from the body. Rather, baptism is a request to God for a clear conscience. It saves you through Jesus Christ, who came back from death to life. **1 Peter 3:21** (GW)

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.' **Acts 22:16** (NIV)