



IT'S A NEW DAY – Easter 2024

Mercy – Part 1

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Early on Sunday morning, as the **NEW DAY was dawning**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to see the tomb . . . The angel said, “He is risen!”
(See Matthew 28:1-10)

A **NEW DAY** will dawn on US because our God is **LOVING AND MERCIFUL**.
(Luke 1:78 GW)

MERCY: undeserved forgiveness & unearned kindness

I NEED GOD'S MERCY:

1. **ASHAMED: WHEN I'VE MESSED UP.**

One day Jesus was teaching a crowd outside the Temple, and some Pharisees brought a woman who was **CAUGHT** in adultery. They put her on display in front of the crowd, then said to Jesus. “This woman has been CAUGHT in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. So what do YOU say?” They were trying to **TRAP** Jesus into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and started writing in the dirt with his finger. They kept badgering Jesus, demanding an answer. Finally, Jesus stood up and said, “Here's my answer: If any one of you has never sinned, then you may throw the first stone.” Then he stooped down again and continued writing in the dirt! When the accusers heard this, they began to slip away, one by one, beginning with the oldest, until it was just Jesus and the woman. At that point, Jesus stood back up and quietly said to her, “Where are your accusers? Is there no one left to condemn you?” “No one, Lord,” she said. Then Jesus said, “**Neither do I condemn you!** Now go on, and **leave your sinful ways.**” (John 8:2-11)

- GOD'S MERCY – **forgives me and frees me.**

Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin. So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. **There we will receive mercy and find the grace to help us in our time of need.** (Hebrews 4:15-16 CEV)

2. **ANGRY: WHEN I DON'T HAVE WHAT I NEED.**

In Jerusalem, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, which was surrounded by five covered porches. A large crowd of all sorts of disabled people would lie by the pool, waiting for a miracle. There was a legend that every once in a while an angel would stir up the water, and whoever was the first to get in the water while it was still moving would get what they needed and be made whole. One poor man had been waiting by the pool for 38 years. When Jesus saw this man and heard that he'd been lying there for such a long time, he asked the man, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the man replied, "I have no one to help me get into the pool when the water is stirred! While I'm trying to get there, somebody else always gets ahead of me!" Then Jesus simply said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and start walking!" When the man trusted Jesus, he was immediately able to walk again. (John 5:2-9)

- GOD'S MERCY – **makes the impossible – possible.**

As you get to know Jesus better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life. (2 Peter 1:3 LB)

3. AFRAID: WHEN FACING DEATH.

One of the criminals being executed on a cross beside Jesus ridiculed him saying, "If you're supposed to be the Messiah, why don't you save yourself . . . and us too!" But the second criminal rebuked him, "Man, don't you even fear God when you're dying? We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man hasn't done anything wrong!" Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I guarantee you that today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

- GOD'S MERCY – **will save me for eternity.**

(Jesus) "I am the resurrection and the life! Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live again!" (John 11:25)

Anyone who asks for mercy from the Lord shall have it and shall be saved.
(Acts 2:21 LB)

A PRAYER TO RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

Dear God, I need your mercy.
I've messed up.
I admit that for much of my life I've ignored you.
I want that to change starting right now.
Jesus – thank you for being so merciful.
And just like the thief on the cross, I humbly say to you,
"remember me."
Save me from the hurts and the habits and the hang-ups that mess up my life.
I humbly ask you to accept me into your family.
And I do this because of what Jesus Christ did for me on the cross at Easter.
Amen!