**Study/Discussion Questions for Mark 14:53-65 (Mar. 1, 2015)**

In Mark 14:53-65 we witness Jesus on trial before the leadership of Israel. Three strands of irony stand out in this passage. First, it is ironic that Jesus, who is judge of all, is being judged by Israel’s leaders. Second, it is ironic that the Sanhedrin (the ruling body in Israel) accuses Jesus of blasphemy while they themselves blaspheme the Son of God! Third, it is also ironic that the Sanhedrin condemns their Messiah who will one day return in power and glory to condemn them and all others who have denied Him. We also learn from this passage that Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah was open and unambiguous. This is important as we also witness how the Sanhedrin openly rejected Christ’s claim and sentenced Him to death for making the claim. Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah and Lord of all still confronts every person in the world today. Who do you say that He is?

1. In Mark 14:58-59 we learn that the witness who had claimed that Jesus would tear down a temple “made with hands” in order to build a temple “made without hands” was inconsistent in his testimony. Read the following passages about the phrase “made with hands:” Acts 7:48; 17:24; Eph. 2:11. Compare with Col. 2:11 which talks about the circumcision “without hands.” How does this help us know that the witness’s testimony was inconsistent (Hint: John 2:19-21)?
2. Look up the following verses about anointing in the O.T. Lev. 4:3; 8:12; 1 Sam. 16:13; 1 Kings 19:16. How do these verses help us understand the imagery behind anointing a person with oil in the O.T.? What purpose did it serve? Compare the anointing of the prophets, priests, and kings with that of Messiah in Isaiah 11:1-4; 61:1-2; Matt. 3:16; Luke 4:14-18.  With what (or whom) will the Messiah be uniquely anointed?
3. Read Mark 12:35-37. How does this teaching by Jesus help us know that He is both God and man? How does it also reveal that the leadership of Israel was looking for a messiah that was only a man (Hint: Matt. 22:46)?
4. Read Psalm 110:1-7 and Daniel 7:13-14. Why were these important passages for Jesus to cite in conjunction with His claim to be the Messiah? What is significant about Jesus being a priest in the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 7:1-2)?