**Week of June 9, 2019**

**Mark 15:6-15, 25-26, 33-39**

6 Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. 7 And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. 8 And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them. 9 But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews? 10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. 11 But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. 12 And Pilate answered and said again unto them, what will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews? 13 And they cried out again, Crucify him. 14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. 15 And so Pilate, willing to content\* the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.

25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. 26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? 35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. 36 And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down. 37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice and gave up the ghost. 38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. 39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, truly this man was the Son of God.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s lesson we continue in the book of Mark’s gospel. As we state before “gospel” means the life of or story of” Jesus was delivered by the Sanhedrin to Pilate for trial. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor at the time of Jesus. Pilate realized that the Jewish leaders were motivated by envy. Therefore, He was not convinced that Jesus was guilty of the criminal charges of blasphemy that were brought against Him. Pilate reminded the people of their custom that was observed during the feast of the Passover to release a prisoner of their choosing. The people chose to release Barabbas and crucify Jesus. Even though the people could not pinpoint a crime Jesus committed, they insisted on His crucifixion. The inscription written and placed above Jesus, “The King of the Jews” is mentioned in all the Gospels; however, Mark’s inscription is the shortest recorded. When the sixth hour (noon) came, Jesus had been handing on the cross since the third hour (9:00 AM). Suddenly darkness appeared from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM. This darkness cannot be explained away by calling it an eclipse; instead, it was a supernatural event orchestrated by God. When Jesus died and gave up His Spirit, the Veil on the temple was torn, symbolizing the access to God was now provided by the unique sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus’ death not only satisfied fully God’s wrath for the sins of humans, but it made temple sacrifices outdated and sealed the new covenant.