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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Religious Freedom

Mark 2:18-28

Series: Getting In on the Good News
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passage

Mark 2:27 (ESV) — 27 And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

Central Thought: We get in on the good news when we stop hiding behind or being bound within religious systems and learn to trust Jesus as savior and king and follow him into true freedom.

Presence, Purpose and Power

- ❖ Any religious practice that doesn’t recognize and lead us into the freeing presence of the Father through Jesus is pointless and likely destructive. (vs. 18-22)

John 14:6 (ESV) — 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 8:36 (NLT) — 36 So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

Galatians 5:1 (NLT) — 1 So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.

- ❖ Any religious rule that doesn’t lead to human flourishing is misguided and manipulative. (vs. 23-27)

Matthew 23:1–4 (ESV) — 1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

Matthew 23:13 (ESV) — 13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.

James 1:27 (ESV) — 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

- ❖ Jesus is greater than any religious tradition or practice. (vs. 28)

Matthew 12:6–8 (ESV) — 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

John 5:39–40 (ESV) — 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV) — 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (See also Psalm 23)