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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Holy Anger (or, *Unholy Alliances*)

Mark 3:1-12

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

Central Passage

Mark 3:1–6 (ESV) — *1 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. 2 And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. 3 And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” 4 And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. 5 And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.*

Central Thought: We get in on the Good News, when we give up our religious and nationalistic labels as our primary identifiers and sources of security, and pledge our allegiance wholeheartedly to Christ and to his kingdom purposes.

Sabbath: A sign and “celebration of God’s creation and redemption – past, present and future.” (N.T. Wright, *Mark for Everyone*)

Courting Holy Anger...

- ❖ When we gather as a congregation, are we watching or worshipping? (vs. 1-2)
- ❖ Do our religious/denominational or nationalistic commitments truly lead to life and liberty, or are they tools for our own self-preservation? (vs. 3-5)
- ❖ Is it possible that we have made unholy alliances that anger Jesus and keep us from his good work in us and through us? (vs. 6)

Scriptural Food for Thought...

Matthew 22:36–40 (ESV) — *36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Galatians 5:6 (NIV) — *6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

Hebrews 11:13–16 (NLT) — *13 All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. **They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.** 14 Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. 15 If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. 16 **But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.***