

7. As Christ's followers, what does it mean for us to be counter-cultural?
  
8. How would you describe the cost of following Jesus to someone who was contemplating becoming a Christian? What would Jesus say to the same person?
  
9. In the four major sections of this chapter, discuss how Jesus challenges the traditions and comfort levels of those he is encountering? What are the traditions he is addressing?
  
10. How do our traditions sometimes keep us from see what the real purpose of our action is?

## Chapter Two THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS



### WHERE IS JESUS?

1. Capernaum
2. Levi's House
3. The Sea of Galilee

**OVERVIEW :** Mark continues his dynamic description of Jesus' ministry as we move into chapter two. Jesus offends the religious leaders by forgiving a paralytic's sin, even though He proves His freedom to do so by healing him (2:1-12). He later

demonstrates His power over sin by calling—and transforming—a tax collector to be one of His disciples. He even went to dinner at Levi’s house with a group of tax collectors. Ultimately, this arouses the criticism of the religious (vv. 13–17), who have never realized that God is more concerned with human need than with ritual (vv. 18–20). The old ways of viewing faith are worn out, unable to contain the new revelation Jesus brings (vv. 21–22). A dispute over the Sabbath brings out an important point (vv. 23–28). This new revelation Jesus brings is in harmony with the real meaning of Old Testament faith, for Christ is Lord.

In chapter one, we witnessed the shocking authority and humility of Jesus. In chapter two, we see that the Pharisees have also taken notice, and they don’t like what they see. *Skim the chapter to find the four complaints that the Pharisees make against Jesus.*

**INSIGHT:** Jesus uses something very familiar to the people as an illustration of something completely new (2:21–22). The tightly sown skins of goats were often used to hold wine. The fresh skin stretched as the grape juice in it fermented. But old skins could no longer stretch, so new wine would cause them to burst. The debate over Sabbath practices that follows (vv. 23–27) illustrates that contemporary Jewish faith was so brittle that it had no room to “stretch” to meet human need.

**Read Mark 2:1-12.**

? Verse 4 on digging through the roof: In rural Palestine, a roof would have been

2. What would you be seeing and/or feeling if you were in the crowd listening to Jesus as the men lowered their friend through the roof to get him to Jesus?
3. If you had been the paralytic when your friends decided to take you up on the roof, remove the tiles, and lower you into the room at the feet of Jesus, how would you have felt?
4. What has it cost you to follow Jesus?
5. Is it more or less than what you expected and what do you think about that?
6. In chapters 1-2, how have Christ’s actions broken free from cultural norms?



