

Luke 18:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

Analysis

Lo, we have left all, and followed thee (ἀφῆκαμεν πάντα, aphēkamen panta)—Peter's declaration uses the aorist tense, emphasizing a definite past action of total abandonment. The Greek panta (all things) is comprehensive: boats, nets, tax booth, security, reputation. This follows Jesus's encounter with the rich ruler who couldn't leave his possessions, creating a stark contrast between wealth's grip and discipleship's freedom.

Peter speaks for all twelve, establishing the apostolic pattern of radical discipleship. His statement isn't boastful but questioning—the preceding discourse on the difficulty of salvation for the wealthy has unsettled him. **Followed thee** (ἠκολουθήσαμεν σοι, ēkolouthēsamen soi) uses the verb that became technical for discipleship, implying not just physical accompaniment but complete life-orientation. Jesus's response (verses 29-30) will validate this sacrifice while warning against mercenary motives.

Historical Context

In first-century Palestine, fishermen like Peter owned their equipment and had established businesses—leaving 'all' meant genuine economic sacrifice. Unlike itinerant rabbis who expected students to eventually return to trades, Jesus demanded permanent, irrevocable commitment. The twelve's abandonment anticipated the church's later missional lifestyle.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What specific securities or comforts has following Christ required you to release, and how did that abandonment deepen your faith?
2. How does Peter's question reveal both faith (we did leave all) and doubt (was it worth it)?
3. In what ways might modern discipleship call for 'leaving all' that don't involve literal poverty?

Interlinear Text

Εἶπεν	δὲ	ὁ	Πέτρος	Ἰδού,	ἡμεῖς	ἀφηκαμεν	πάντα,
said	Then	G3588	Peter	Lo	we	have left	all
G2036	G1161		G4074	G2400	G2249	G863	G3956
καὶ	ἠκολουθήσαμεν	σοι					
and	followed	thee					
G2532	G190	G4671					

Additional Cross-References

Mark 10:28 (References Peter): Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

Philippians 3:7 (Parallel theme): But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Matthew 19:27 (References Peter): Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Luke 5:11 (Parallel theme): And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

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