

Luke 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Analysis

Jesus responds to Peter's fear: 'Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.' The command 'fear not' addresses Peter's terror at encountering deity. Jesus transforms Peter's profession—from catching fish to catching men. The Greek 'zōgrōn' (ζωγρῶν, catch alive, take captive) was used for capturing prisoners in war but here means winning people for God's kingdom. Peter's fishing expertise becomes a metaphor for evangelistic ministry. Jesus takes our natural abilities, sanctifies them, and redirects them for kingdom purposes. The call isn't to abandon skills but to repurpose them for eternal significance.

Historical Context

Jesus' wordplay on Peter's fishing trade made His call memorable and concrete. Ancient readers would appreciate the metaphor—fishermen caught fish for physical sustenance, evangelists catch men for spiritual life. The phrase 'from henceforth' (Greek 'apo tou nyn,' ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν, from now on) marks a decisive turning point—Peter's life trajectory permanently changes. Though he returned to fishing temporarily after Jesus' death (John 21), this call ultimately defined his ministry as apostle. The transformation from fisherman to fisher of men illustrates how God redeems and repurposes our occupations for His glory.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' call to 'catch men' demonstrate His pattern of redeeming and repurposing our natural abilities for kingdom work?
2. What does the metaphor of fishing for men teach about evangelism's nature—actively pursuing, skillfully drawing, bringing people from death to life?

Interlinear Text

ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην νιοὺς Ζεβεδαίου

so And And James And John the sons of Zebedee

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οἵ τισαν κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμωνα καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς τὸν

which were partners G3588 Simon And said unto G3588

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Σίμωνα ὁ Ἰησοῦς Μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν

Simon G3588 Jesus not Fear from G3588 henceforth

G4613 G2424 G3361 G5399 G575 G3568

ἀνθρώπους ἔσῃ ζωγρῶν

men thou shalt catch

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Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:47 (Parallel theme): Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Matthew 4:19 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Mark 1:17 (References Jesus): And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Luke 5:7 (Parallel theme): And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

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