

Luke 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

Analysis

He saw two ships standing by lake fishermen gone out washing nets. Two ships indicates fishing partnership. Fishermen gone out exited boats. Washing nets cleaning maintaining equipment end of work. Normal workday ending Jesus enters ordinary life. God calls people where they are not requiring special religious preparation. Washing nets mundane task becomes setting for divine encounter. Jesus sees not just boats nets but potential disciples. God sees beyond present circumstances to future calling. Reformed theology emphasizes God sovereign initiative in calling election precedes human response faith is gift. Jesus approaching these men is grace they did not seek Him initially.

Historical Context

Fishing on Galilee required boats nets equipment significant investment. Partnerships were common sharing costs labor profits. Morning fishing expeditions ended with cleaning nets for next use. Galilee fishing was major industry fish salted dried exported. Peter Andrew James John operated successful business. Their later abandonment of this prosperity for itinerant ministry with Jesus demonstrates radical nature of discipleship call. First-century rabbis typically did not seek disciples disciples sought rabbis. Jesus reverses pattern demonstrates sovereign grace in calling.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus entering ordinary work life challenge sacred-secular divide?
2. What does Jesus seeing potential beyond present circumstances teach about how God views believers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶδεν	δύο	πλοῖα	έστωτα	παρὰ	τὴν	λίμνην·	οἱ	δὲ
And	saw	two	ships	standing	by		the lake	G3588	but
G2532	G1492	G1417	G4143	G2476	G3844		G3041		G1161
ἀλιεῖς	ἀποβάντες	ἀπ'	αὐτῶν	ἀπέπλυναν	τὰ	δίκτυα			
the fishermen	were gone	out of	them	and were washing	G3588	their nets			
G231	G576	G575	G846	G637		G1350			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:19 (Parallel theme): And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

Matthew 4:21 (Parallel theme): And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.