

Mark 1:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Analysis

Come ye after me, and I will make you fishers of men. The imperative Come demands response. After me indicates discipleship. I will make you demonstrates Jesus transforms followers progressively. Fishers of men employs occupational knowledge for kingdom purposes. This has Old Testament background (Jeremiah 16:16) but here is redemptive—catching people for salvation. The call implies mission through evangelism. Reformed theology emphasizes Christ call is effectual—those He calls, He empowers for service.

Historical Context

The fishers of men metaphor resonated with their experience. Successful fishing required knowledge of fish behavior timing locations technique. Similarly evangelism requires understanding people cultural sensitivity opportune timing Spirit-led wisdom. Jesus took natural abilities and redirected them for kingdom. This call was to extended training approximately three years before Great Commission. Apprenticeship preceded ministry.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus promise I will make you demonstrate that effective ministry depends on Christ transforming work not natural talent alone?
2. In what ways does fishers of men challenge Christians to view evangelism as core calling requiring skill and dependence on the Spirit?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς Δεῦτε ὀπίσω μου καὶ
And **said** **unto them** G3588 **Jesus** **Come ye** **after** **me** **And**
G2532 G2036 G846 G2424 G1205 G3694 G3450 G2532

ποιήσω ὑμᾶς γενέσθαι ἁλιεῖς ἀνθρώπων
I will make **you** **to become** **fishers** **of men**
G4160 G5209 G1096 G231 G444

Additional Cross-References

Luke 5:10 (References Jesus): 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.