

Mark 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

Analysis

He saw James and John mending nets. Immediately after calling Peter Andrew Jesus continues building apostolic team. Detail mending nets indicates responsible businessmen maintaining equipment. The verb means restore repair prepare same word spiritual restoration. Jesus calls people in daily life not special spiritual moments. James John were partners with Peter Andrew suggesting prosperous cooperative. Zebedee present with hired servants indicating wealth. Jesus calls them to abandon prosperity for discipleship. God sovereign call comes in various circumstances transcends earthly considerations.

Historical Context

James John became prominent. James first apostle martyred (Acts 12:2) by Herod AD 44. John became beloved disciple authored Fourth Gospel three epistles Revelation leader until death around AD 100 after Patmos exile. Jesus nicknamed them Boanerges sons of thunder reflecting fiery temperaments. Mother requested they sit at Jesus right left showing family ambition Jesus corrected. Zebedee owned boats plural employed servants indicating wealth their sacrifice substantial. Leaving father fulfilled teaching discipleship prioritizes Him above family.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does calling ordinary workers teach about God interrupting any life?
2. How does leaving wealth family business father demonstrate supremacy of Christ call?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εὐθεῶς ἐκάλεσεν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀφέντες τὸν πατέρα
And straightway he called him And they left G3588 father
G2532 G2112 G2564 G846 G2532 G863 G3962

αὐτοῦ Ζεβεδαῖον ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ μετὰ τῶν μισθωτῶν
him Zebedee in G3588 the ship with G3588 the hired servants
G846 G2199 G1722 G4143 G3326 G3411

ἀπῆλθον ὄπισω αὐτοῦ
and went after him
G565 G3694 G846

Additional Cross-References

Mark 10:29 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Matthew 10:37 (Parallel theme): He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Luke 14:26 (Parallel theme): If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

2 Corinthians 5:16 (Parallel theme): Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

1 Kings 19:20 (Parallel theme): And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

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