

Matthew 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Analysis

Jesus' call of fishermen beside the Sea of Galilee demonstrates God's sovereign election of ordinary people for extraordinary purposes. Simon and Andrew's occupation as fishermen becomes prophetic symbolism—they would become 'fishers of men,' gathering people into God's kingdom. The seaside setting also recalls Jesus' later parables about the kingdom being like a net gathering fish (Matthew 13:47-50).

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee (also called Gennesaret or Tiberias) is actually a freshwater lake about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide. Fishing was a major industry, and fishermen formed a significant segment of Galilean economy. Simon (Peter) and Andrew were business partners with James and John (Luke 5:10).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' calling of common fishermen teach about God's values versus worldly measures of qualification and status?
2. How does the metaphor of 'fishers of men' illustrate the nature and urgency of evangelistic ministry?

Interlinear Text

Περιπατῶν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν· τῆς
walking And G3588 Jesus by G3588 the sea G3588
G4043 G1161 G2424 G3844 G2281

Γαλιλαίας εἶδεν δύο ἀδελφὸν Σίμωνα τὸν λεγόμενον
of Galilee saw two brethren Simon G3588 called
G1056 G1492 G1417 G80 G4613 G3004

Πέτρον καὶ Ἀνδρέαν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ βάλλοντας
Peter and Andrew G3588 brethren his casting
G4074 G2532 G406 G80 G846 G906

ἀμφίβληστρον εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν· ἥσαν γὰρ ἀλιεῖς
a net into G3588 the sea they were for fishers
G293 G1519 G2281 G2258 G1063 G231

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:2 (References Peter): Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Luke 6:14 (References Peter): Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

Matthew 16:18 (References Peter): And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 15:29 (References Jesus): And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

John 6:1 (References Jesus): After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

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