

Matthew 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you
fishers of men.

Analysis

Jesus' call 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men' transforms the disciples' occupation into a metaphor for evangelism. The promise 'I will make you' shows discipleship is a process where Christ shapes His followers. The shift from catching fish to catching men requires leaving former occupations and priorities—following precedes being 'made' effective.

Historical Context

Simon and Andrew were commercial fishermen on Galilee—hard, skilled work requiring strength and patience. Jesus' wordplay ('fishers' to 'fishers of men') gave dignity to their background while redirecting their skills. The immediate call required instant decision.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' call to 'follow' require you to leave behind?
2. How have you experienced Christ 'making' you into what He called you to be?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λέγει	αὐτοῖς	Δεῦτε	ὀπίσω	μου	καὶ	ποιήσω	ὑμᾶς
And	he saith	unto them	Follow	G3694	me	And	I will make	you
G2532	G3004	G846	G1205		G3450	G2532	G4160	G5209
ἀλιεῖς	ἀνθρώπων							
fishers	of men							
G231	G444							

Additional Cross-References

John 12:26 (Parallel theme): If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Matthew 16:24 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

John 1:43 (Parallel theme): The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Luke 9:59 (Parallel theme): And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

John 21:22 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Luke 5:27 (Parallel theme): And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

Mark 2:14 (Parallel theme): And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

Matthew 19:21 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Matthew 8:22 (Parallel theme): But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

Matthew 9:9 (Parallel theme): And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

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