

Matthew 4:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Analysis

The phrase 'they straightway left their nets' emphasizes the immediate, unconditional obedience that characterizes genuine discipleship. Their willingness to abandon livelihood and security demonstrates that Christ's call supersedes all earthly attachments and responsibilities. This immediate response was enabled by divine grace effectually calling them—illustrating irresistible grace in Reformed theology. True disciples count the cost and still find Christ infinitely more valuable.

Historical Context

Leaving their nets meant abandoning their means of income and family business. This was not rash foolishness but Spirit-enabled faith recognizing Christ's supreme worth. Some disciples later returned to fishing temporarily (John 21:3), but their primary calling was now following Jesus.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does the disciples' immediate abandonment of their livelihood teach about the cost and priority of following Christ?

2. How does their response illustrate the effectual nature of Christ's call in drawing His elect to Himself?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	εὐθέως	ἀφέντες	τὰ	δίκτυα	ἠκολούθησαν
G3588	And	they straightway	left	G3588	their nets	followed
	G1161	G2112	G863		G1350	G190

αὐτῷ
him
G846

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:60 (Parallel theme): I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

Matthew 19:27 (Parallel theme): Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

1 Kings 19:21 (Parallel theme): And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.