

Matthew 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

Analysis

The repetition of immediate obedience ('immediately they left the ship and their father, and followed him') reinforces the radical nature of discipleship. True conversion produces immediate, visible transformation of life priorities. The detail that Zebedee remained with hired servants suggests the business would continue, showing that obeying Christ's call doesn't necessarily destroy what we leave behind—God cares for remaining responsibilities.

Historical Context

This second calling of fishermen established a pattern for apostolic ministry. Most disciples came from Galilee's working class—fishermen, tax collectors—not from religious elite or wealthy classes. This fulfilled God's pattern of choosing the foolish and weak to shame the wise and strong (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the repeated pattern of immediate obedience demonstrate that genuine faith produces visible life transformation?
2. What might you need to 'leave behind' to follow Christ more fully, and what assurance do you have about what you leave?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	εὐθέως	ἀφέντες	τὸ	πλοῖον	καὶ	τὸν
G3588	And	they immediately	left	G3588	the ship	and	G3588
G1161		G2112	G863		G4143		G2532

πατέρα αὐτῷ ἡκολούθησαν αὐτῷ
father him and followed him
G3962 G846 G190 G846

Additional Cross-References

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.

Mark 1:20 (Parallel theme): And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

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.