

**Millstones**

Grinding grain using a millstone was common labor (Exod 11:5). It provided the basic livelihood for many. Deut 24:6 forbids lenders from holding a millstone as collateral to safeguard the security of the poor. Millstones appear frequently throughout Scripture, both literally and figuratively.

As a commonplace item, the millstone served as a basis for comparison. For example, the ever-present sound of millstones grinding grain symbolized the most basic economic activity. The absence of the sound signified the cessation of daily activity and the destruction of a nation (Jer 25:10; Rev 18:22). Rev. 18:21 compares the boulder thrown by the angel to a millstone as an indicator of its size. In Luke 17:22-36, Jesus used commonplace activities such as sleeping, men working in the field, or women grinding at the mill with millstones to illustrate the suddenness of the Son of Man’s revealing. In our lesson, Jesus uses the image of being drowned under the weight of a millstone as a warning to those who would harm children (Matt 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2).

*(adapted from Lexham Bible Dictionary)*



The top image shows a millstone used to crush olives, and the bottom picture shows two women “grinding at the mill” (Lk 17:35) to crush the grain between a movable upper millstone and a fixed lower millstone

*Memory Verse #37:* “If anyone wants to be \_\_\_\_\_, he shall be \_\_\_\_\_ of all and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” (Mark 9:35).

*In His Dust:* Talmidim \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. “Your \_\_\_\_\_ must always be with \_\_\_\_\_, as though \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, so you will know how to respond to each person” Colossians 4:6).

**Lesson notes & questions:**

**Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):**

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

*“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)*

## APPLY!

- Share any “Lesson Reflections” with the group. Recite this lesson’s Memory and In His Dust verses; discuss what they mean to you.
- **Mark 9:33-57 - True Greatness**
  - How is pride viewed in our current culture? Is this the same kind of pride condemned in the Bible, or is it different?
  - Do you know someone who is little-known and unnoticed but is probably a spiritual superstar in God’s eyes? What aspects of that person’s life are worthy of imitation?
  - ***When alone with God, surrender your “agenda” to Him and ask how He wants you to serve.***
- **Mark 9:38-41 - Judging Other Believers**
  - How does 9:39–40 support cooperation among Christian churches of various denominations? Do you tend to resist such ideas? Why?
  - What are some examples of giving a cup of water?
  - How does doing it in Jesus’ name and belonging to the Messiah further define this good deed?
  - ***Get in the habit of seeing things from an eternal perspective. Understand, don’t react. Even better, be the person who serves a cup of water.***
- **Mark 9:42-48 - Warnings About Gehenna**
  - Can hell still serve as a motivation for repentance, or should Christians avoid speaking about hell? Why/why not?
  - Why did Jesus use hyperbole to warn us about temptation and hell? Does this mean His words are not really, literally true?
  - ***How is your walk with the Lord? Deal radically with the sin in your life. Begin by confessing your sin to God and then to one other person whom you can trust.***
- **Mark 9:49-50 - Salt (trials, deeds, speech)**
  - What should Christian individuals do to be “salt” in their families and neighborhoods?
  - What should the church as a body do to be salt in the world?
  - ***Remember that when you face trials, there is a deeper glory and significance than what we can see in this world.***
- **What do you want to remember and apply from this lesson?**
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs.**
  - Seek His will for our church, our community, and our society.
  - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life.