

Luke 17:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Analysis

Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left (ἔσονται δύο ἀλήθουσαι ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό, ἡ μία παραλημφθήσεται, ἡ δὲ ἑτέρα ἀφεθήσεται)—Jesus continues the separation imagery. Two women alēthousai epi to auto (grinding at the same place)—engaged in identical daily labor. Again, one taken, one left. The repetition emphasizes that external activity, social position, or religious practice doesn't determine destiny—internal heart condition does.

Grinding grain was daily women's work, often done communally. Jesus uses mundane activity to illustrate eschatological separation. No sphere of life—domestic, agricultural, commercial—escapes divine judgment. The Second Coming interrupts ordinary life, revealing and finalizing hidden spiritual realities.

Historical Context

Hand-grinding grain between millstones was arduous daily work for women in ancient Near Eastern households. Pairs often worked together, singing and talking while grinding. This familiar domestic scene provides Jesus with imagery for sudden eschatological separation—judgment interrupting normal life without warning, discriminating based on invisible spiritual realities.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the ordinariness of these examples (sleeping, grinding) challenge expectations of dramatic pre-judgment warnings?
2. What does it mean that judgment comes during normal daily activities—how should this affect present priorities?
3. Are you spiritually prepared for Christ's return to interrupt your ordinary day at any moment?

Interlinear Text

δύο	ἔσονται	ἀλήθουσai	ἐπὶ	τὸ	αὐτό	μία
Two	women shall be	grinding	G1909	G3588	together	G1520
G1417	G2071	G229			G846	
παρληφθήσεται,	καὶ	ἡ	ἐτέρα	ἀφεθήσεται		
shall be taken	and	G3588	the other	left		
G3880	G2532		G2087	G863		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:41 (Parallel theme): Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.