Quote:
How do I handle options that are configured as 'm' in one configuration file but configured as 'y' in the other? The default Debian installation has an initrd but the OpenVZ kernel doesn't. It also appears that the OpenVZ kernel has most options set to 'y'.

AFAIK each 'nonembedded' kernel must have initrd enabled - it contains modules for your kernel.

The 'initrd /boot/initrd_for_your_OVZ' line must be present in bootloader configuration file for each kernel, but it is missed for OVZ kernels in your menu.lst!!!

Generally, "make install" add initrd line to bootloader config, but if the mkinitrd package is not installed in your Debian, or something else is broken, this line will not be added, but you can add this line by hands.

If /boot/initrd_for_your_OVZ file is also missed, please check that the 'mkinitrd' package is installed in your OS and the mkinitrd command works ok.