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THE APOSTLE'S PRIDE

In Mark 9:33-41 we see two cases of pridefulness among Jesus' twelve apostles. In verses 33-34 we see that they were arguing among themselves about who would have greater status than the others when Jesus would set up his kingdom in Jerusalem.

Jesus set them straight. It would not be who would rule with him, but rather who would be the humble servant of all the others. He then used a child as his example in verses 36-37.

In verses 38-40 we see that a believer of Jesus who was not of the twelve apostles of the lamb was casting out demons of those that were afflicted. John spoke to Jesus against this man on behalf of the twelve. He told Jesus to forbid this presumptuous act that the man was doing. It was prideful for them to think that only the twelve would be able to do the works of Jesus because, after all, Jesus had hand-picked them for this purpose. Can't you hear them say, "Who does this man think he is?" reflecting their prideful attitude.

Jesus rebuked them again in verse 39 and told them in verse 41 that any good thing such as a cup of water given or done in his name would be rewarded.

At this stage of their development, the twelve apostles of the lamb had not yet learned to discern things spiritually. Their fleshly pride got in the way. This all changed when they were filled with the Holy Spirit in the upper room and at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with power at Pentecost.

Yet it does illustrate how new believers, babes in Christ, can make rash judgments based on their lack of spiritual maturity. We must not judge new believers rashly. We must pray for them and teach them by sharing our wisdom God has given us.