



[Matthew 20:24](#)

(24) And when the ten heard *it*, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.
New King James Version

Matthew 20:20-26 records the occasion when the mother of James and John asked [Jesus](#) for special consideration for her sons. When the other disciples heard of the mother of James and John asking Jesus for special consideration for her sons, they were indignant, angry. Why? From Jesus' reply we can infer that their vanity was pricked—they had been "beaten to the punch"! They had been thinking of the same request because in their vanity they thought they deserved special consideration too.

Their proud minds had pictured themselves as worthy of being served, and they were offended because they thought that chance might be slipping away. Jesus reminded them that, ***even to be in the Kingdom***, one has to have a humble attitude of a servant.

Unlike [love](#), [pride](#) is "touchy and fretful." When pride feels threatened, it broods against what it perceives to be hurting it or lessening its chances of "being on top," "coming out ahead" of another, "looking good," or "getting even." And so it competes against others. It looks for ways to elevate itself or put another down. It counts all the offenses, real or imagined, and puts them into a mental account book to justify its position until it finds an opportune moment to break out in "vindication" of itself.

Love does not do any of those things. [1 Corinthians 13:5](#) says it as simply as it can possibly be put. Love does not insist on its own way—it will not even become provoked in the first place. And it makes no accounting of the evil done against it! We all have a long way to go in this regard!

When love dominates a person's life, becoming offended either through hurt feelings or a strong temptation to [sin](#) is remote. When pride dominates, hurt feelings or strong temptations to sin seem to lie behind every bush.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Matthew 20:24 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
— John W. Ritenbaugh

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