

for they were ashamed that their argument centered upon "who was the greatest." Their preoccupation with their own futures made it impossible for them to understand what Jesus had revealed concerning His coming suffering. The hidden agenda, their selfish concerns, caused them to miss what was the most important event on God's agenda.

In the background of this dispute were a number of factors that primed their sense of pride. The transfiguration had recently taken place which probably caused them to think that the Lord would soon inaugurate His visible kingdom. They anticipated a radical change in status from lowly wandering disciples to being the chief men in the court of the King of Israel.

Peter, James, and John had been chosen from among the others to accompany Jesus up the sacred mountain. This advantage gave them status the others did not enjoy. Also, Peter himself, had been singled out on a number of occasions by Jesus (Matt. 14:28-29; 15:15; 16:16-18, 22, 23; 17:4). This might have led to the conclusion that Peter would be exalted to a position second only to Christ Himself when the kingdom appeared. Their reaction to these events and others made the disciples overly status conscious and since the subject was very much in the front of their minds, it came out in their conversation.

Status has to do with the state or condition of a person. It has to do with the advantages or disadvantages a person has in relation to others. Because of sin, status is of great importance in human relations. The average person's mind is sorting data constantly in