



# Daily Reflections

## September 28, 2020

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### Scripture

#### **Luke 9:46-50**

An argument arose among the disciples about which of them was the greatest.

Jesus realized the intention of their hearts and took a child and placed it by his side and said to them,

“Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest.”

Then John said in reply,

“Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to prevent him

because he does not follow in our company.”

Jesus said to him,

“Do not prevent him, for whoever is not against you is for you.”

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### Our Scripture Reflection

So many leaders are followers of their egos and their need for affirmation from others. Jesus' disciples were no different in this regard.

If you were scouring the Twelve disciples for candidates for the biggest ego, whom would you nominate?

Peter comes to mind first. He is bold and brash, and sometimes resists what Jesus wanted to teach or do. He boasts, for example, that though the other disciples may fall away, that he never will.

But the brothers Jesus nicknamed "the sons of thunder" -- James and John, the sons of Zebedee -- come in a close second. Through their mother they seek to be granted the right to sit at his right and left hand in the kingdom. What chutzpah!

Why is it that the Three whom Jesus took aside -- Peter, James, and John. had such a problem with pride. Did Jesus' special attention inflate their egos? Perhaps. But they were the natural leaders who needed special instruction. What makes a leader believe that others will follow or want to follow him or her? What makes a leader desire to lead, come out on top in a group of people, naturally extend influence over the others? Leaders have their own set of strengths and weaknesses. Pride can be one of these. Only when self-centeredness and self-confidence are surrendered to Jesus, can leaders really be servants. And so Jesus works with His leader-disciples and the rest of them about their pride.

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## **Food for your Journey**

For most of his life Albert Einstein had the portraits of two scientists, Newton and Maxwell, hanging on his wall as role models to inspire him.

Toward the end of life, however, he took them down and replaced them with portraits of Albert Schweitzer and Mahatma Gandhi. He needed new role models, he said — not of success, but of humble service.

—Philip Yancey, "Humility's many faces," Christianity Today, December 4, 2000.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You are meek and humble of heart. Please make my heart like Your holy and humble heart. Amen