



Dream Ladder

Mark 11:23-24

By Pastor Dan Turpin

WestCoastChurch.com

Objective Sentence: Anyone can make their dreams a reality by building a four rung ladder to them.

Introduction: Charles William Paddock was born August 11, 1900 in Gainesville, Texas to Charles and Lulu Paddock. His family moved to Pasadena, California when he was a child. After serving in World War I as a field artillery lieutenant in the U.S. Marines, Paddock studied at the University of Southern California. There he joined the track and field team, and excelled in the sprint events. He represented his country at the 1920 Summer Olympics in Belgium, enjoying his greatest successes there. He won a gold medal in the 100 meter final, while placing second in the 200 meter event. With the American 4 x 100 meter relay team, Paddock won a third Olympic medal. He was the first person to be named "The fastest man alive." Paddock had tremendous influence on young people and spent a great deal of time sharing his story and motivating them. Over a thousand kids packed the school auditorium Cleveland, Ohio when Paddock walked to the front of the stage, put both hands in his hip pockets and in a full strong voice shot out the question, "Do you know who you are? You don't do you? Well, I'm here to tell you. You are Americans, and you are the children of God. You can be somebody. You can be anything you want to be if you have a goal and will work and believe and have good moral character. You really can be what you want to be with the help of the God." A young materially poor, but spiritually rich Junior High black kid listened intently as this famous athlete talked and decided that he too wanted to be the fastest human being on earth. He shared his dream with Charles Riley his track coach. Coach Riley said to him, "It's great to have a dream son, but to attain your goal it is necessary to build a ladder to it; and on the ladder you must have rungs that will support the weight of all you hope to achieve. The first rung on your dream ladder must be **determination** and the second **dedication**. The third step is **discipline!** The fourth rung enabling you to build your dream is **attitude!**" This young man did just that and won a record eight individual NCAA championships at Ohio State University and was affectionately known as the Buckeye Bullet, but he was not allowed to live on the college campus. In 1935 he set three world records and tied another in less than an hour at the Big Ten track meet which has been called "**the greatest 45 minutes ever in sports history and his achievement has never been equaled**". At the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Owens won international fame with four gold medals: 100 meters, 200 meters, long jump, and 4x100 meter relay. He was the most successful athlete at the games and

as such has been credited with "single-handedly crushing Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy. He was inducted to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1970; he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1976 by Gerald Ford and the Congressional Gold Medal by George H. W. Bush on March 28, 1990. In 1984 a street in Berlin was renamed for him. Two U.S. postage stamps have been issued in his honor. His name? Jesse Owens.

#1. Determination (*Lu. 6:62 NIV* *No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God* **Message Bible—Jesus said, “Do not procrastinate. Don’t look back. You can’t put God’s kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day .)**

A. Pastor Dan: *There are two things that will destroy you as a believer: one is giving up—it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure that one out; the other is letting up. Letting up may not be as obvious but in the end giving up and letting up will cause you fail not become the person you are capable of becoming.*

1. Persistence (*1 Cor. 9:24-27* *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.*²⁵ *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*²⁶ *Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.*²⁷ *No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.)*

a. Claude M. Bristol: It's the constant and determined effort that breaks down all resistance and sweeps away all obstacles.

b. Dwight D. Eisenhower: What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the size of the fight in the dog.

c. Eph. 3:20 Pastor Dan: There’s Greatness in You

d. Calvin Coolidge: Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

#2. Dedication (*2 Tim. 4:7* *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.)*

A. Napoleon Hill: *Every person who wins in any undertaking must be willing to cut all sources of retreat. Only by doing so can one be sure of maintaining that state of mind known as a burning desire to win which is essential to success.*

1. Single Purpose (*Ja. 1:5-8* *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*⁶ *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting,* *for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.*⁷ *For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*⁸ *he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his way.)*

a. Tom Brady: To me football is unconditional love. The only thing I ever wanted to be was a professional football player.

b. Ps. 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord ...

c. Ps. 27:4 This one thing I have desired of the Lord ...

- d. *Orison Swett Marden:* The successful men and women of today are those of one overmastering idea, one unwavering aim, persons of a single and intense purpose.
 - e. **Matt. 6:24** No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money
 - d. *Bunker Hunt:* To be successful you must decide exactly what you want to accomplish, and then resolve to pay the price to get it.
 - e. *Pete Carroll:* Three rules: "Protect the team; No whining, no complaining, no excuses; Be early." Practice is everything: "Practice is where we make us." Everything counts: "You're either competing or you're not.
- #3. **Discipline** (*Heb. 12:1* Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.)
- A. **Pete Carroll:** Today is the most important day for us. If you want to be great on game day, you've got to prepare well today.
 - 1. **Mental Toughness** (*2 Cor. 4:8-9; Ro. 8:37* We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—yet in all these things we are more than conquerors)
 - a. *Jim Rohn:* We must all suffer from one of two pains: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. The difference is discipline weighs ounces while regret weighs tons.
 - b. *Bill Belichick:* I think practice preparation is always an indicator of game performance, not necessarily 100 percent, because there are still a lot of variables there, but it's still an indicator. The way you train is the way you play.
 - c. **Pro. 13:4** The soul of a sluggard desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich." The undisciplined person has the wish, but not the will. He wishes for something, but he will not discipline himself to obtain it. However, the disciplined person, his desire is united with exertion. Good things come not to those who just sit and wish, but to those who make things happen by their own effort.
 - d. *Tom Brady:* To me, football is so much about mental toughness, it's digging deep, it's doing whatever you need to do to help a team win and that comes in a lot of shapes and forms.
 - e. *Russell Wilson:* My height (5'11') doesn't define my skill set. To be a great quarterback, you have to have great leadership, great attention to detail and a relentless competitive nature - and I try to bring that on a daily basis.
 - f. *Pete Carroll:* We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. Our program is built around being great in every moment, because all the little moments eventually add up to the big events down the line, whether on Sundays or otherwise. Let's get our habits right.

#4. Attitude (*Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.*)

A. Michelangelo: *The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark.*

1. Believe (*Mk. 9:23 Nothing is impossible to the person who believes.*)

- a. *Michael Korda:* In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can.
- b. *Roger Staubach:* Winning isn't getting ahead of others, it's getting ahead of yourself.
- c. *Tom Brady:* The true competitors are the ones who always play to win.
- d. *Russell Wilson:* When we are at the worst times of our lives, when we are battling with something, or struggles, whatever it may be, when we are at our highest point as well, when things are going really well, we want somebody to comfort us and be there for us and to say, 'Well done.' That someone is Jesus
- e. *Pete Carroll:* We're not going to do anything different for this game since we're not treating this game any different than another game. Every game is a championship game for us, so we'll treat this one, the last one and the next one exactly the same. And that goes for our practices leading up to it as well.

Closing and Invitation: Russell Wilson the quarterback of Seattle Seahawks and winner of Super Bowl thirty-eight shared his testimony, "I was always in church even from a very early age because my parents took me. I always knew about God but my life was preoccupied with sports. I was a bad kid and was always beating up people. But at the age of fourteen I had a dream when I was at a football camp. In the dream my dad passed away and Jesus came into the room. He was basically knocking on my door saying, 'Hey, you need to find out more about me.' So that Sunday morning I ended up going to church and that is when I got saved and made a commitment to Jesus Christ. That is when my life began changing.

In a pre Super Bowl media interview Russell Wilson said, "My faith is everything. While I want to be known as a great football player, even more than that I want to be known as a good man of Christian faith. In terms of my legacy off the field, I want to be a Christian man that helps lead and helps change lives and helps serve other people. It's not about me, it's about helping other people. So that's kind of where I keep my focus. God has given me this amazing talent to be able to throw the football. Even though I am only 5'11" tall, nobody can stop what God has for you." People ask me at times, "Russell do you ever get nervous when you step out on that field? He answered the question, "I play for an audience of one—Jesus Christ. When I step out on that field in front of eighty thousand people I know that God has put me there for a reason and I truly believe that by playing the game of football I can change people's lives. The person that I look up to ultimately is Jesus Christ and that is why I am where I am at today."