



Sermon Series: Dream Ladder
Part Two: Discipline and Attitude

Mark 9:23

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

Introduction: Charles William Paddock after coming home from World War I as a field artillery lieutenant enrolled in the University of Southern California and joined the track team. He excelled in the sprint events and won a gold medal and three others at the 1920 Summer Olympics in Belgium. He was the first person to be named "*The fastest man alive.*" Paddock, a great motivator, loved sharing his story, especially in schools. In Cleveland, Ohio he spoke to one thousand kids in a packed school auditorium and said to them, "... you can be anything you want to be if you have a goal and will work, believe, and exemplify good moral character. God will help you to become what you really want to be!" Jesse Owens, a poor Junior High student was in the audience listening and decided he wanted to be the fastest human being on earth. His track coach, Charles Riley said to Jesse, "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 steps to support the weight of your dreams: the first step on your dream ladder must be **determination** and the second **dedication**. The third step is **discipline!** The fourth step is **attitude!**" Jesse Owens went on from there and won eight individual NCAA championships at Ohio State University. He became known as the Buckeye Bullet, but was not allowed to live on campus because he was black. In 1935 he set **three world records and tied another in less than an hour at a Big Ten track meet** which has been called "the greatest 45 minutes ever" in sports history. His achievement has never been equaled. In the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany, Owens faced off against Hitler's vision of Aryan supremacy—he crushed it winning 4 gold medals. Jesse Owens was inducted to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1970; he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1976 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1990. In 1984 a street in Berlin was renamed for him. Two U.S. postage stamps have been issued in his honor. In 2016 a movie **Race** was released telling Jesse Owens story.

#1. Dream Ladder

- A. Ancient Philosopher:* As goes **your desire** so goes your will. As goes **your will** so goes your deed. As goes **your deed** so goes **your destiny**.
- 1. Discipline** (*Hebrews 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 patience*

[endurance, tenacity, perseverance] the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith....)

- a. *Pastor Dan:* Proper Preparation Produces Powerful Presentation.
 - b. *Pete Carroll:* Today [not tomorrow or next week] is the most important day for us. If you want to be great on game day, you've got to prepare well today.
 - c. *George Bertchi:* The way you train is the way you fight.
 - d. *Jim Rohn:* We must all suffer from one of two pains: the **pain of discipline** or the **pain of regret**. The difference between them is that discipline weighs **ounces** while regret weighs **tons**.
 - e. **Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on [keep working, keep pushing myself,], that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press [keep working, keep pushing myself], toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 - f. *Bill Belichick:* I think practice preparation is always an indicator of game day performance, not necessarily 100 percent, because there are still a lot of variables there, but it still an indicator.
 - g. **Proverbs 13:4 KJV:** The soul of a sluggard desires and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. **NKJV:** The soul of a lazy man desires and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. **Living Bible:** Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.
 - h. *Unknown Source:* 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.
2. **Attitude** (*Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.*)
- a. *Russell Wilson:* My height (5'11") doesn't define my skill set. To be a great quarterback, you must have great leadership, great attention to detail and a relentless competitive nature—and I try to bring that on a daily basis.
 - b. *Michael Korda:* In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can.
 - c. *Henry David Thoreau:* If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. He will pass an invisible boundary; new, universal, and more liberal laws will begin to establish themselves around ... him.
 - d. **Mark 9:23** Nothing is impossible to the person who believe.
 - e. *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.
 - f. *Roger Staubach:* Winning isn't getting ahead of others, it's getting ahead of yourself.
 - g. **Luke 1:37** For with God nothing will be impossible.

Closing and Invitation: It has been said, “The *outcome* of your life will be determined by your *outlook* on life.” Channing Pollock had lectured at one of the nation’s major universities. He confessed, “I had been traveling hard, speaking once or twice every day, was very tired, and felt very sorry for myself. After the lecture, a man, standing among several who had come onto the platform, said something kind about my talk. I turned to shake his hand, and found that he had no hands. Then I looked up to meet his eye, and found that he had no eyes. Next morning, he phoned me, and said, ‘Let’s take a drive, and see Bear Canyon. It’s lovely at this time of year.’”

The idea of seeing the Canyon with a man who couldn’t see interested me. But, perhaps, no one else ever saw that Canyon as clearly, and appreciatively, as my blind companion. He kept pointing this way, and that, “Look at the crag,” he exclaimed, “with the shadows slipping away from it! Look at the colors of that valley!” How

long since you really saw them last,” I inquired at length, “More than thirty years,” my friend answered, “but I know every rock and tree. When I’m depressed, I always come here to look at them. I can’t tell you what those mountains mean to me!” This man was blinded and crippled by a mine explosion when he was twenty-one. He attended Harvard, has delivered over six thousand lectures, and has crossed the continent fifty-five times. He has memorized over forty thousand words of classical literature, so that he can repeat them to himself when he wants to read. Living alone, he cooks with a wooden hand he made himself, and fishes with another artificial hand. He is one of the happiest, brightest persons I ever met.