



Urban Classical Education with Russ Gregg

Lesson 3: Dream Big, Start Small, Grow Slow: Starting an Urban Classical School

Outline:

God's Leadership Profile

- **What is the biggest obstacle to the advance of the kingdom in your city or neighborhood?** Our unbelief in the promises of God...
- **God has done what he has done here “not because of me but in spite of me.”**
- See 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise...”
- We need childlike trust in the promises of God

Dream Big

- **In 30 years of ministry, Russ says that the biggest mistake he has made has been to underestimate God**—compare the book *Your God Is Too Small* by J. B. Phillips.
- **The story of how God provided a remarkable building for the school:** the first building they looked at was contaminated with arsenic...but the Lord's “No,” means that he has a better “Yes.” The building God did provide showed God to be big indeed.

Start Small

- **While we should dream big and expect big things from God, we should nonetheless start small:** Don't despise the day of small things (Zech. 4:10).
- **Don't compare your new school to a mature school**—which would be like a five-year old comparing himself to a twenty-five year old.
- We are growing oaks of righteousness—but we start with little saplings.
- Be grateful and content to make a difference in the lives of just a few as you start. Compare the starfish story—saving just one starfish makes a difference to that starfish.

Grow Slow

- **So dream big, start small, and grow slow.**
- Don't throw too many logs on the fire or you will smother it.
- Each time Russ broke the grow slow rule he almost sunk the school.
Examples: When Hope Academy decided to bring in a large group of students into the Middle School and later the High School—students who had not



- grown up and been educated at Hope Academy. The influx of many students who did not share the ideals and culture of the school nearly sunk the school.
- Regarding fundraising and budgeting: You can only grow as at the pace you can raise the money to serve the students. Growing beyond your ability to raise funds for tuition and costs can sink your school.

Conclusion

We are often impatient and want to grow faster. The best way, however is to grow slow.