**Dreaming Big with Balance**

**Introduction:**

1. Is it ok to dream big?
2. It’s ok to say this is not big enough.

**Note: You will never grow bigger without a strategy and balance**

**Three Questions You Should Ponder**

1. How do you dream big in a balanced way?
2. What can happen if you dream big in an imbalanced way?
3. What happens if you have the wrong definition of big?

**Note**: There were seasons when I defined big as more growth, more resources, more opportunity. I learned that small investments in a group of hungry people can be a small seed that grows into a big world-changing investment.

1. **An Example of Balanced Big Dreamers**

**(Joshua and Caleb)**

**Text:** Numbers 13:30–33 (NIV)

**1. Big Dreams Require Aggressive Confidence**

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “**We should go up and take possession** of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

**2. Big Dreams Requires Positive Perspectives**

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “**We can’t** attack those people; **they are stronger** than we are.” 32 And **they spread among the Israelites a bad report** about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. **All the people we saw there are of great size.** 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). **We seemed like grasshoppers** in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

* We can’t (v31)
* They are stronger (v31)
* They spread a bad report (v32)
* All the people are of great size (v32)
* We saw the Nephilim (v33, descendants of giants)
* We seemed like grasshoppers…

**Question:** Are these words and terms used by you?

**Question**: Can you name someone that has been a balanced big dreamer?

**II. An Example of Imbalanced Big Dreamers**

**(Joshua 7:1-26)**

**Note: Achan had a big dream but an imbalanced approach to accomplishing that dream.**

**Four Observations About Achan’s Imbalanced Dreams**

 **1. Achan dreamed and secretly compromise (What compromises are you hiding?)**

* + 1 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord’s anger burned against Israel.

 **2. The seeds of Achan’s compromise nullified God’s blessing: They lost a winnable battle**

* + 2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.” **4 So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, 5 who killed about thirty-six of them.** They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.

**3. The seeds of Achan’s compromise brought overwhelming grief: They could not figure**

 **out why they were losing**

* + **6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground** before the ark of the Lord, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, “Alas, Sovereign Lord, **why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us?** If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! 8 Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? 9 The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?”

**4. His Motivation: He wanted to succeed**

* + 10 The Lord said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? **11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.** 12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.
	+ 13 “Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.

**Conclusion**: We want to succeed, dream big and make a difference—but not at any cost.

Q/A