

Chapter 6

Theme:

The importance of a teacher having high expectations for themselves

Single Best Quote:

The variable – and what really matters – is what teachers expect of themselves

Points:

1. Every teacher has what could be called some level of “high expectations” for students. But, it is the teacher who holds themselves to a higher level of expectations that is great.
2. The teacher who performs well in the classroom will see the students rising to meet the expectations. A teacher who is unprepared, disinterested, disengaged will produce a classroom environment that cannot maintain students who perform at high expectations.

Self-evaluation and application as a:

- **Shop teacher** – a large percentage of my classroom problems (maybe 80%) begin with me not being prepared, ignoring a situation or just performing at an incompetent level.
- **Bible teacher** – be sure people are not disengaged with Bible teaching because of my failure as a teacher.
- **Parent** – Children will always recreate what they have seen, not necessarily what they have heard. In other words, children will model the parent.
- **Person** – Do not blame others or hold others to a higher standard than is appropriate.

Questions/Criticisms/Evaluations/Comments of Whitaker’s presentation or perspective:

- I do not doubt the opening story, but it is hard to imagine a professional teacher seriously asking such a stupid question.