TEACH WITH JOY - A LEGACY

by

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A brilliant mind is admired by some, but having a life touched by a sincere person is indeed remarkable. Knowledge and skills are valuable but the attitude towards them are greatly vital.

How can teaching be a legacy? Legacy, as defined by Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English is ‘something that happens or exists as a result of things that happened at an earlier time.’ Teachers are of great influence to every student in various ways and degree of impact. As such, we are expected to raise the bar in our personal and professional lives – in a world full of spectators.

Mother. It can be debatable whether there is a woman behind a man’s success, but it is undeniable that there are some great teachers behind all successful men and women. Teachers, as second mothers or parents, greatly influence their students through wisdom beyond lesson plans, warm hearts beyond classroom management and sincerity beyond incentives of their so-called profession.

Inspiration. However cliché it may sound, teachers still play a vital role in making or breaking a student. Being an inspiration to these hopeful individuals is truly inexplicable, especially most of them are expressive and/or appreciative. An impact may not be sensed in just a short span of time, but rest assured that through words of affirmation and empathy showered to students are bound to leave an impression in the long run. Effective teachers display positive attitudes about life and teaching.
Values. Teachers do not have to be Values Education teachers to pass on the virtues and traits they wish to witness in their students. ‘Walk the Talk’ may be an effective strategy, for they value the emotions they felt in various circumstances rather than superficial ideas given. Learners may forget what we’ve taught them but will always remember how we’ve made them feel on such occasions. It’s our choice of how we want to be remembered.

Jack-of-All-Trades. Educators do not simply ‘educate’ or ‘teach,’ but have a wide range of role as the needs arise or the situation calls for. We may be their counselor, team leader, facilitator, nurse and even their doctor. A learner is a holistic well-being, who has various traits, skills, and talents. We may not be adept at everything, however, we may at least give our best to reach out our student’s heart and mind.

Noble. Marcus Tullius Cicero once said that ‘What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state than that of the man who instructs the rising generation. A teacher is considered as one of the pillars of the society, for we already come hand-in-hand with these bunch of buds as young as three years old in their Pre-Elementary education until they bloom and mature in their Bachelor’s Degree, not yet including their Post-Graduate studies. It’s very humbling how this profession is set to create all other professions. In line with this, being an educator, a teacher or an instructor is truly a calling – especially in terms of passion and commitment.

All these characteristics may be summed up to one word – JOY – for without this in a teacher’s heart and mind, a work is just a ‘task or obligation’ and not a ‘vision’ of the rising 21st-century achievers. A good teachers always put the learner’s worth a priority. Living a legacy – teaching with joy –our future generation needs ‘YOU.’
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