**The Extra Mile**

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Class: 127[WK]

Due: Jan. 23. 2016

Word Count: 865

*Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.*

- Benjamin Franklin

We come across many teachers in our lives, not only in schools but at work, at the gym, actually almost every place we go. As long as we are open minded and willing to accept a lesson anyone can be a teacher, a good or a bad one. When I think of a good teacher I always think of a teacher who is willing to go the extra mile and when I think of a bad teacher I think of those who are hypocrites and teach as if they just want to get over the lesson, teaching is simply just a job for them.

I met Mr.Kenneth Pe when I was a sophomore in high school. He was my algebra teacher. Now, I was never the brightest student or even a student who was interested in studying. I hated school. I hated learning. I wasn’t open minded or willing to learn what the school had to teach. Mr.Pe noticed these qualities in me and always tried to convince me that I still needed to pass his course and do well in school. Of course I didn’t want to listen to him. After being in his class for about a month I was already failing his course. One day he told me that he would like to have a private conversation with me after school and we did so. He told me he was also like me, never willing to accept what the schools had to offer and that he loved being a troublemaker also. He shared stories of his youth and tried to convince me I really needed to step up and get my grades up. After that day, he always went a step further just for me. Although there were many other students in the class he would confirm with me if I understood every part of the lesson and moved on once I was able to understand every last bit. He even put me in the spotlight by making corny jokes about me to where I was not offended just so I would want to try even harder. When I scored decent in the next test he even congratulated me in front of the whole class giving me more confidence and showing everyone that I could do it too. He tried his hardest to showed me that he really cared.

One of the worst teachers I have had is Mr.Jim Armentrout from my Bible studies class during my senior year in highschool. He was a true hypocrite. He would always talk about basic human needs living in this world as a sin towards God and always said that keeping the body healthy as a “temple of God” was important. Mr.Armentrout weighted at least 300 lbs. He was one of the biggest and most unhealthy persons I have seen in my life. He would walk 20 meters and be out of breath. It really bothered me that he would pick out a quality from every student and say that it was a sin but was unable to see anything about himself always claiming he gives everything he has to be a “sinless” person. He was too eager to judge others but not see himself. He was a real hypocrite and was never willing to argue that he himself had any problems.

When Mr.Armentrout came to actually teaching his lessons, it was all talk. Boring students to death with lecture after lecture trying to force his own ideas and beliefs down every student. There was no argument to whether he was right or wrong. He was teaching and preaching so we can take his quizzes and tests. Simply put, just talk about the Bible because it was a Bible study class. I believe the Bible should be something we can interpret and accept with our own minds or heart but for Mr.Armentrout it was his way and no other way. As students growing up, we all need flexibility and learn ways to interpret things how we want but because it was just a lesson about the Bible, we had no choice but to accept the lesson as it was.

As teachers we all wish to be the good teacher and the cool teacher. It is never easy to know how each student will judge us because everybody has their own opinions. But trying to go the extra mile for the student is always a quality that can be accepted as good to most people. Although I only had Mr.Pe for one semester, I will always remember him and thank him deeply in my heart for going the extra mile for me. Not only did he help me change my grade but he also changed the way I view teachers and how to accept learning. In comparing my example of a good teacher and bad teacher, I see that if we try hard enough in life things can be different. As teachers we have the power to change someone's future if we are willing to go the extra mile so we should be accepting that there is always more that can be taught and more that can be learned.