

A Parable on Learning¹

Student: I can't outline what you say.

Teacher: Life and thought and conversation seldom conform to an outline.

Student: But that makes it hard to prepare for the exam.

Teacher: What exam?

Student: The one at the end of your course.

Teacher: You will be taking my exams the rest of your life.

Student: I don't understand a lot of what you are teaching us.

Teacher: You won't for three years.

Student: That's the whole course?

Teacher: No, it's only the beginning of the course.

Student: Do you have any idea of what my class standing will be?

Teacher: You'll fail the course, along with the rest. But then all of you except one will turn the world upside down.

Student: When we've finished, will we know as much as the Pharisees?

Teacher: No. You won't know as much, but you'll be changed. Do you want to be changed?

Student: I think so. Is your teaching relevant?

Teacher: Is it true?

Student: You seem to throw questions back at me instead of answering them.

Teacher: That's because the answers are in you, not in me.

Student: Will we see you in class tomorrow?

Teacher: The class continues at supper and the campfire tonight. Do you think I only teach words?

Student: Is there an assignment?

Teacher: Yes, help me catch some fish for supper.

¹ Tokunboh Adeyemo, "The Renewal of Theological Education," in Evangelical Education Today, ed. Paul Bowers, Naibori: Evangel Publishing House/WEF, 1982