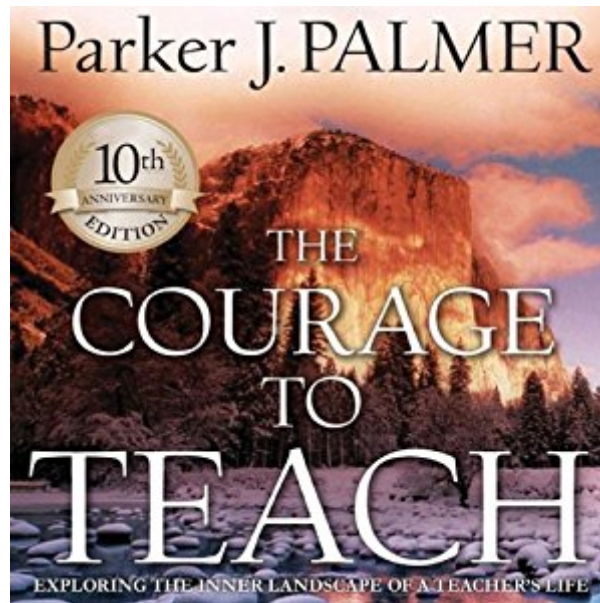


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# The Courage To Teach: Exploring The Inner Landscape Of A Teacher's Life



## Synopsis

As Parker Palmer says in the introduction to the 10th Anniversary Edition, “This book is for teachers who have good days and bad • and whose bad days bring the suffering that comes only from something one loves. It is for teachers who refuse to harden their hearts, because they love learners, learning, and the teaching life.” This book builds on a simple premise: good teaching cannot be reduced to technique but is rooted in the identity and integrity of the teacher. Good teaching takes myriad forms but good teachers share one trait: they are authentically present in the classroom, in community with their students and their subject. The connections made by good teachers are held not in their methods but in their hearts • the place where intellect, emotion, spirit, and will converge in the human self • supported by the community that emerges among us when we choose to live authentic lives. The special 20th Anniversary edition will be perfect as a gift for new or experienced teachers. This edition includes a new foreword discussing the changes that have happen in teaching over the 20 years since the book was originally published. It also includes a reader’s guide for individual study or team-based professional development.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Education #481 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christianity

## Customer Reviews

Parker Palmer is one of my favorite writers. This is a book to listen to at least once a year (if you’re a teacher). It’s inspiring and reminds me of what’s truly important in the classroom, especially after a semester with a bunch of disgruntled, self-entitled students. I consider it almost a self-help book,

one that keeps me passionate about teaching even when teaching is getting me down. I must say a lot of people have majorly misunderstood Palmer in this book. It's important to read carefully and NOT box Palmer in with the "let students do anything they want at all in the classroom even if they learn nothing, so they can 'find themselves'" crowd. He does not promote that. I admit his language comes across as kind of "hippy" sometimes, but if you really consider his IDEAS, he is not a pushover or an over-permissive free-for-all-ist at all. He just thinks teaching is relational, and ideas are important, and can help us build relationships. I think he's right. And I'm glad he writes!

Remarkable teachers, Palmer believes, are a pragmatic lot who do whatever it takes and often fail. Along the way they may find themselves begging, cajoling, and expressing their own gratitude, fearfulness, and ignorance. All of them eschew mere technique and aspire to make their teaching an intensely spiritual experience: they allow teaching to transform their innermost selves. Palmer's challenge to each educator is to acknowledge that knowing one's students and knowing one's subject requires the deepest self-knowledge. What is required is nothing less than an unflinching commitment to live out in the classroom a painful Socratic examination of one's own life. This indeed requires a courageous willingness to make oneself vulnerable. But what exactly is involved, and what is the payoff? Thankfully, Palmer's analysis avoids the fuzzy metaphors (and half-baked metaphysics) that spoil many contemporary "new age" visions of the role of spirituality in public life. Palmer, who was trained in philosophy, religion, and sociology, provides many specific examples. His most conventional claim is that modelling Socratic examination allows teachers to inspire their students to construct deeply fulfilling lives. He also argues that a Socratic entanglement of a teacher with her subject causes a passionate engagement more helpful than any bureaucrat's assessment instrument. Palmer draws on anecdotes--from kindergarten teachers to medical school professors, from shop teachers to physicists--to make his case. These anecdotes provide constructive solutions to many of the most painful problems teachers face and make plausible Palmer's vision of the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual depths of a life committed to teaching and learning.

Anything by Parker J. Palmer is a MUST HAVE! Great insights presented clearly and concisely. The book and the concepts therein gave me quite a lot to reflect upon and I read it over time several times. I got something more and of greater depth every time.

Palmer is inspirational and fun to read! This book gives you confidence as a future or current educator, and it is fun to read and understand the many different types of educators. However, it's

kind of mushy.

A great reminder of why we chose this profession; especially when feeling run down

Hands down, one of the best books I have ever read. For all of the teachers out there or teachers in training, this is a MUST read. Palmer captures all of the moments that an educator can expect to have with a realistic view of them. Passionate read. Will re-read.

Parker Palmer is my hero. Teaching as an art is about connecting to a deeper meaning and purpose for living. It's not just about passing along content. It's about connecting to our content and then connecting to our students in ways that allow us to create deeper understandings of the world we live in and how we can do better in it. Thank you Dr. Palmer.

What an outstanding read for all who seek to delve into pedagogy...I believe it should be on the shelf of every student, especially those in the academy...

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