



## Charlotte Mason: A Liberal Education for All with Jason Barney

Introduction to  
Charlotte Mason:  
Biography, Part 1

### Outline:

#### Charlotte Mason's Principles

- Children are born persons. We don't make their personhood through education.
- Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life.
  - An atmosphere is a culture, aesthetics, and relationships.
  - Discipline means the discipline of habits. Training towards virtue resonates with our goal as classical Christian educators.
  - Education is a life. Ideas have an inspirational value. Ideas are what the mind should feed on and not just facts.
- Apply some of Charlotte Mason's ideas in each of the subjects.
- Education is the science of relations, relationships between persons and things.
- A liberal education for all
- What then should we do differently in the classroom?
  - How to train a student in a habit?
  - How we can approach content based subjects through narration and get students doing the work of learning for themselves.
- Theory meets practice in Charlotte Mason.

#### Who was Charlotte Mason?

- She is a Christian educational philosopher in the liberal arts tradition (this may be a controversial statement).
- We can compare her to Dorothy Sayers.
- She was deeply enthusiastic about the power of education.
- Charlotte Mason was reading a good deal of philosophy of education. She has a hopeful spirit about the power of education.
- She speaks with British Anglican enthusiasm for the progress that could be made.
- She saw her goal to bring common thought on the subject of education to the level of scientific research (philosophy of the classical tradition). Theory with practice worked out. She wanted parents to have the benefit of real wisdom and insight about education from a Christian perspective.