



Charlotte Mason: A Liberal Education for All with Jason Barney

Lecture 11: Education is a Life: Living Ideas

Outline:

Education is a Life

- The mind is a living spiritual entity.
- Life requires sustenance, bodily and in mind. The mind works only as it is fed.
- Mere information is as sawdust to the body.
- We must feed the intellectual life. What does an intellectual life receive sustenance from?
- A goal for classical education that our children would grow into adults who have vibrant intellectual lives.
- Students should have the knowledge they need in order to perform the task that is set before them.
- Charlotte Mason was not of the mindset that we should just study the classical languages. We need to give students a rich feast of ideas, and doing so in our own language is a good way to serve this feast.

What do we mean by an idea? How is it different from fact or values?

- Charlotte Mason says it is a live thing of the mind. If an idea is big enough, it possesses us.
- Ideas are not mere concepts, or statements of a theory. They are not just subjective opinions.
- Ideas initiate trains of thought.
- Ideas come from God above, and then we share them with one another.
- There are ideas of mathematics, literature, and poetry.
- Ideas can come in many forms. We need to be on the lookout for ideas.
- Are you ready to go where your great book goes?
- Ideas have consequences. Ideas lead students on to a vocation.
- We should supply the child with abundance and variety in the ideas. We should recognize that teaching is necessarily a risk.
- Most of the ideas get will be from other people. We must sustain a child's inner life with ideas as we sustain his body with food.
- Give them all the ideas, but you can't force the ideas (you can't control it and manipulate it).



- Even our Lord Jesus took risks in his teaching. Parables were a risk. They closed the minds of some, but opened them of others.
- We need to be careful not to give our opinions instead of ideas.
- Beware what summaries we give them.
- Feed them on ideas and their souls will grow.