



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

### Lecture 2: Introduction to Charlotte Mason: Biography, Part 2

#### Outline:

Charlotte Mason was the only child of a Liverpool merchant.

- She grew up in a house with many books, but not many toys.
- Great losses were suffered by merchants during the Civil War.
- Both of her parents died when she was 16 years old.
- She desired to teach poor children.
- She had a memory of seeing a teacher with a group of young children holding on to the hem of her dress.

At 18, she went to the Home and Colonial School Society to receive training as a teacher.

- It was there that she learned so much about the philosophy of education and how education developed in the classical tradition.
- Then, she spent 12 years teaching at the Davison School.
- She had the opportunity to learn about the history of educational philosophy.
- Note also Charlotte Mason's love of children.
- She went on to become a teacher of teachers.
- She was seeking to figure out the mysteries in education, and make sure that children really learned as well as possible. She sought to get students to attend well to their lessons.

An Essay Toward a Philosophy of Education, Charlotte Mason

- She was looking at how to secure the attention of the child.
- She focuses on a liberal education for all.
- She observed children for herself. She recollected her own childhood. She considered her own current habits of mind.

Charlotte Mason gave a series of lectures in 1885 to raise money for a church building project.

- By 1887 the Parent's National Educational Union had been started because of the enthusiasm for her book, Home Education.
- Charlotte Mason started a periodical, The Parent's Review, to bring the knowledge of the subject of education to the level of scientific research.
- Many parents clamored for Charlotte Mason to begin training teachers.



- Charlotte Mason started a house of education for training teachers.
- One of the core methods was the teaching practice of narration.

Near the end of Charlotte Mason's life, she wrote *An Essay Towards a Philosophy of Education*.

- Some of her youthful enthusiasm had been tempered by WWI.
- At this time many were following Charlotte Mason's methods.