



Narration: A Classical Guide with Jason Barney

Lecture 1: Introduction to Charlotte Mason: Biography, Part 1

Outline:

We could do more in terms of the “how”. How should we go about the work? Narration offers itself as a way that has a rich history in the classical tradition.

Charlotte Mason perfected this classical tradition practice of narration for the modern world.

- Who was Charlotte Mason and what did she think that she was doing?
- Charlotte Mason is like Dorothy Sayers.
 - Dorothy Sayers argued for going back to the medieval way of doing education. She felt we were sending out students prey to propagandists. They were taught subjects, but not how to think for themselves.
 - Grammar, logic, and rhetoric were tools of learning.
 - Dorothy Sayers admitted that she was not an educator, but she had an initial idea that helped get us back on track.
 - Charlotte Mason is proposing a liberal education for all, which is a classical education. She is trying to gesture towards a new moment. She is trying to fuse science with her worldview.
 - One difference between Charlotte Mason and Dorothy Sayers is that she spend her life focused on K-12 education. She led a movement and taught teachers and parents. She has a wealth of practical experience with students.
- You get a different positive tone in Charlotte Mason.
- She is thinking Christianly.
- She said that education is the great handmaid of religion.
- The best place to locate Charlotte Mason (in spite of that Victorianism) is part of a broader movement of British Christian Romanticism.
 - Charlotte Mason is embracing the traditions of the past as she seeks to give a liberal education to all children of the world.