



Classical Teaching & Writing Symposium: The Principles of Classical Pedagogy Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lesson 8: Embodied
Learning 3 – Liturgical
Learning

Outline:

Liturgies

- Liturgies are embodied practices that cultivate in us a certain love for something.
- What we do with our bodies is really important.
- Think about education as the forming of human beings.
- There are forms built into the nature of things. We have formative practices of eating. We have cycles of seasons. Can we learn from the bee?
- Culture educates.

Poem

- Poem means something made.
- We are Christ's poem (workmanship).
- Poems are meant to be recited.
- Poetic teaching can become part of teaching in a classroom.
- How we teach the content is formative.
- If we exclusively focus on analysis, we won't do as well at virtue formation.
- The poetic mode will succeed in training and cultivating virtue.
- Knowledge comes to us through the body, we want to pay attention to the body.

Examples

- Literature and story is a key way to teach poetically or liturgically.
 - This will awaken student's moral imagination.
- History
- To be formed by a great novelist we have to be formed by the novelist's world.
- Good poetic, liturgical reading is expansive.
- Stories instead of rules, instead of a list of facts.



Bees Making Honey

- Be discriminating (Basil).
- Reading with discernment is a kind of honey making process.
- Sacred reading, Lectio Divina
 - Lectio, reading
 - Slow engaged reading.
 - Reading once and reading again
 - Poetic reading
 - Meditatio, meditation
 - This was a way of synthesizing a making connections
 - This was a weaving time
 - Contemplatio, contemplation
 - Time to open up and be inspired by God himself
 - Oratio, pray
 - This meant a response in prayer.
 - A creative response to what we have thought about.

Practices

- Could students read aloud in class?
- Could students discuss the book with partners?
- Could they use commonplace books?
- Could they sketch, draw, create plot diagrams?
- What about writing in the books themselves?
- Could they compare the virtues and vices in Sam and Frodo?
- What might be a creative response after mediation and making connections about a passage?

Liturgical Pattern

- Gratitude
- Adoration
- Confession
- Homily – teaching
- Doxology
- Silent Prayer
- Traditional Prayer

Could we poetically become like the bees?