



## The Black Intellectual Tradition and the Great Conversation

with Dr. Anika Prather

### Lesson 13: The Challenges of Bringing Classical Education to the Black Community

#### Outline:

##### Go Down Moses

- Harriet Tubman carried people to freedom and never lost a person.
- Harriet's sister was so gripped with fear of leaving with Harriet that she threatened to tell the master of the plantation about Harriet.
- This fear symbolizes why black people tend to resist the classics – so much fear.
- When we share about classical education, we must understand the fear that we may face when relating to the black community. You have to step into and empathize with the feelings of the black community.
- When you bring classical education to a black community, bring the message that you are part of this narrative. God sees you, and your story is important.

##### What led you all to start a classical school?

- We had a passion for Christian school.
- The purpose of ACCS, to give children a Christian worldview and to give children the tools for learning, was what we wanted.
- One of our burdens, as a pastor, as a church was to see to it that the home, school, and church were on the same page as it relates to training our children and leading the congregation.
- “The end of education is to know God, and the laws and purposes of His universe.”

##### The school lasted for 10 years, what were your challenges with that?

- There were economic challenges. The church didn't fully capture the vision.
- The church didn't see the vision because they felt that classical education was not the education for black people.
- It is valuable (for Anika) to articulate how the classical tradition does connect with the black community.
- In a diverse community, you have to see that classical education is for everyone.
- Truth is central, universal, and it sets you free.



**Classical education connecting with the black community is one of the easiest things to do and one of the hardest things to do.**