

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Dead Guy Summer // Monica*

*Pastor Gabe*

*July 9, 2023*

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** If you had to eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 7:6-17

### Outline:

- I. Life is short (v. 6-11)
  - A. Paul reminds the Corinthians to place their relationship status in its proper place and to be content. Our horizontal relationship status is not ultimate, but our vertical one is.
  - B. Despite being married to a cruel husband, Monica prayed regularly for her husband and her children. In the face of cruelty she responded with love, living in deep relationship with God and others. Monica knew life was short and lived so others could be brought to God.  
**Q: How does knowing life is short impact your worldview?**
- II. Life is long (v. 12-16)
  - A. Paul says even if your relationship with God is in conflict with your spouse, you shouldn't leave them because your spouse might come to faith through you. "Life is long. Don't sweat it, just stay faithful." - Pastor Gabe
  - B. When her son Augustine was leading an unhealthy, dangerous life, Monica first rejected him, but then felt convicted to stay by her son. Augustine eventually was inspired by the Bishop of Milan and came to faith at the age of 33. Monica's prayers were finally fulfilled.  
**Q: Have you had an experience similar to Monica's case here? What was it like?**
- III. Live faithfully (v. 17)
  - A. Paul tells us to lead the life which God has assigned and called to us. Monica did so by faithfully living in her relationship with God, so that one day Augustine might come to faith.
  - B. "We're not all called to big lives, but we're called to deep lives. Pursuing our relationship with God. Invested in the relationships he gives us here. It matters."  
**Q: How do you remind yourself to live the life God has called you to?**

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we avoid feeling overwhelmed when we are reminded that life is short?
- 2) How do we avoid feeling responsible for other peoples' faith?
- 3) How do we navigate tension with those who are in conflict with our relationship with God?
- 4) How can we discern what life God is actually calling us to lead?

### Suggestion for further study:

- Matthew 19: 11-12: How do these verses help you frame how you should think about your relationship status?
- Romans 12: 3-8 Q: How does this verse give us an outline for how to live the lives God calls us to?

### Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for the example of faith Monica bears to us. Teach us to live like she did, in deep relationship with you, so that others around us may come to faith through your will. Strengthen us in times of uncertainty and trial, and keep us faithful to the lives you've called us to lead. Amen.