

**LIFE IS NOT A**



**MONTAGE**

# A FEW MINUTES OF EFFORT

- A movie montage can cleverly condense days, weeks, or even years into a few minutes of carefully curated snippets.
- With the help of a catchy tune, almost anything is possible – athletic feats, a passing grade, changing one's appearance, falling in love, and even growing up!
- But real life is not like a movie montage!





# UNWRITTEN EFFORT

- It's really easy to read the Bible without appreciating how much effort the great heroes of faith put into their activities. Abraham, for example, left his homeland and traveled many miles to live as an alien, even going to Egypt and back (Gen. 12:1-4, 12:10, 13:1).
- Moses spent a third of his lifetime between Exodus 2:10 and 2:11, then another 40 years in Midian!
- Entire campaigns fought by David and his men that only occupy a few words (1 Sam. 18:5, 30, 2 Sam. 3:1, 21:18ff). David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:8ff).



# THE RUGGED JESUS

- Similarly, the gospels are filled with language that suggests incredible effort, stamina, and fortitude on the part of Jesus. Don't just glaze over these details, but appreciate how hard His life really was!
- Matthew 4 – Fasting
- Matthew 9:35, 12:15, Mark 6:12-13, 30 – The energy and activity of Jesus and His disciples.
- Even simple phrases like “crossed the sea”, “went up to Judea”, “came to the region of Tyre”, etc.



# IN AWE?

- Luke 7:21 – Jesus proved His authority by displaying His power over physical circumstances. His miracles were meant to answer the questions posed by John’s disciples. They were to leave impressed. Convinced. In awe. Are we?
- Maybe we read through His life the same way we watch a movie montage. It’s a fine story, but does it touch us or leave us changed? John 20:30-31 & 21:25 indicate that what was written about Him was written to convict us and lead us to a conclusion.

The image shows three crosses silhouetted against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The crosses are positioned on a dark, silhouetted hill. The central cross is the tallest, flanked by two shorter crosses.

**MOST OF US LIVE LIKE WE  
HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD –  
JESUS LIVED EXPECTING HIS  
TIME WOULD BE UP SOON.**

# DO HARD THINGS

A person is seen from behind, standing on a rooftop or high vantage point, with their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or celebration. The background shows a city skyline at sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The person is wearing a dark jacket. The overall mood is one of achievement and perseverance.

- Appreciate the work that goes into any worthwhile endeavor. You are not guaranteed all the time in the world to “get to it tomorrow” (Prov. 6:6ff, Ecc. 10:18-19).
- Noah did not build the ark in a day. Moses did not cross the wilderness in a day. Joshua did not conquer Canaan in a day. Paul did not turn the world upside down in a day. It might only take a few minutes to read about their adventures, accomplishments, and exploits, but don't be willfully ignorant about how focused these people were. Hebrews 11 is not just about faith, but faith put into action!

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- Satan wants us to think that a “good” life is only made up of the “good parts” (the juicy bits). In fact, the truly rich life is often made up of long stretches of the mundane, of chores, of daily prayer and daily bread and daily service. Life is not a carefully curated collection of events, but is unscripted.
- Marriage, raising children, preparing for leadership, defeating pornography, changing our language or our thinking (Ephesians 5:1ff), building quality relationships, deepening appreciation and understanding of grace, etc.