

Monica: The Would Be Monarch

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Look! Here comes Monica. And she is right on time. Hooray for Monica.

Monica is a caterpillar - the sweetest little caterpillar you've ever seen. She is cheerful, friendly, and very, very helpful. Everyone likes her, and she is always on time

But it wasn't always that way. For a long, long time Monica was always late.

In the mornings Monica couldn't wake up. Her eyes wouldn't open and her body wouldn't move. When she finally wiggled out of bed, Monica was late for breakfast. And that caused a family problem - it made everyone else late too. It's a good thing Monica had a loving family. They always waited for her, and they always forgave her.

After breakfast Monica took forever to brush her teeth, fix her hair, and get ready for school. When the bus arrived and honked at the door Monica was always late. It's a good thing the driver was a loving person. He always waited for Monica, and he always forgave her.

Monica loved being with friends, but did they like being with her?

One time Monica invited her classmates to StoryTime, but she was late, and they missed the program. Another time Monica was late to Wanda's birthday party. Everyone waited while the ice cream melted. It was a mess. But the worst thing happened going to the Fair. Monica was late for the trolley, and everyone had to walk. When they arrived they were very, very tired. Everyone fell asleep and missed all the fun. It's a good thing Monica had loving friends. They always waited for her, and they always forgave her.

Then one day they didn't wait. Why not?

One afternoon all the caterpillars felt a great urge to go camping in the meadow. Everyone hurried home, packed their bags, and got ready to go. But where was Monica? Billy called the neighbors. Monica wasn't there. Melissa went to the park. Monica wasn't there. Bertha checked the ice cream parlor. Monica wasn't there either. Where was Monica?

Finally Monica arrived.

"I'm not ready," she explained. "Please go ahead. I'll meet you later."

Monica had said that many times before, but her friends always waited. This time they didn't. The need to get to the meadow was so great that the children had to go. So they waved good-bye, and off they went.

Monica was shocked. This had never happened before.

"Oh well," she sighed, "That's okay. I'll gather my things and meet them for dinner."

After a short hike the caterpillars reached the meadow. They set up camp in an old apple tree, then played hide n' seek. As the sun began to set they returned for a tasty meal of tender leaves.

Now it was dusk, and the children were full and tired. They had just enough energy to brush their teeth, wriggle into their sleeping bags, and zip up for the night.

Monica was finally ready, and she headed for the meadow. But when she arrived it was dark. Monica searched, and searched, and searched, but she couldn't find her friends. They were all sound asleep. Sadly Monica turned and trudged for home. "If only I had been on time," she moaned. "If only I had been on time."

In the morning the warm sun gently caressed the sleeping children. One by one they began to wake. Slowly the zippers slid down and out they squirmed. But something was different. Something had happened during the night. What was it? During the night everyone changed. No longer were the children little wriggly caterpillars, now they were big beautiful butterflies.

Within minutes the sky was ablaze with color. Each caterpillar had been "born again" to become a new and different creation. Life had changed. It was new and exciting.

What about Monica?

Monica never made it to the camp out, and God's plan couldn't wait. Monica didn't become a beautiful butterfly because she hadn't been on time. She would remain a wriggly little caterpillar while the others soared to new heights and new adventures. And that made Monica very, very sad.

It was a hard lesson to learn, but now Monica understands the importance of being ready and being on-time. Although Monica missed the opportunity to become a big beautiful butterfly, there will be other exciting events in her life, and Monica has vowed to never, never be late again.

A Message for You

God doesn't want you to miss any of His plans for your life. So always be ready and always be on time.

God has some important things to say about being ready.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be

ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (Matthew 24:42-44).

Be ready and be on time in everything you do. It shows that you care about your family and friends, yourself, and most importantly, God.

Check this Out

There's an interesting story in the Bible about the importance of being ready. It's found in Matthew 25:1-13. Why not read it now?

What did you learn from the story?

Be ready and on time in everything you do. It shows that you care about your family, your friends, yourself, and most importantly, your God.

CHECK THIS OUT:

There's an interesting story in the Bible that illustrates the importance of being ready. It's found in Matthew 25:1-13. What does the story tell you?

"THE END"