

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

TITLE: The birthday cake

OBJECT: Birthday cake (photo or object)

DOCTRINE: Reconciliation

STORY WITH THE OBJECT

We all have a birthday, the day we were born. Many of us like to celebrate our birthdays, but others not so much. But we all know the date we came into this world.

TRANSITION TO THE SPIRITUAL

However, we don't know the date of our death. We don't plan to die. We live as if that day will never arrive. But the truth is that just like we have a date of birth, we also will have a date of death.

THE PROBLEM (LAW)

The problem is that on that day we will stand before God and He will judge us according to all we have done. God has given us some commandments to obey because he loves us and he wants to protect us. For example, do not kill. But we have hatred and bitterness in our hearts and we kill others with our words and insults. We are destroying ourselves on the inside and moving farther away from God. Another commandment says do not steal. But we take things that don't belong to us and we harm our neighbor. Or when we lie and are not speaking the whole truth, we are not being genuine people of integrity. We destroy ourselves on the inside.

THE CONSEQUENCES (ETERNITY)

This moves us farther away from God. On the day of judgement, we will be guilty of not having obeyed Him, and we will be destined to go to a place without God, a place without love, hope, peace, or anything good for all of eternity.

THE SOLUTION (CROSS)

But because God loves us so much, He became a man and lived a perfect life on earth. He gave his life for you and me on the cross to pay for our sin. Then he rose again so that we could be forgiven and be brought back to God.

THE CALL (REPENTANCE AND SURRENDER)

To receive forgiveness and be reconciled to God, we must leave our sin behind, everything that offends God, and choose to live for Him and not for ourselves. Come to Jesus and get right with God today!