

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

TITLE: Trash

OBJECT: Trash can

DOCTRINE: Sanctification

STORY WITH THE OBJECT

We worry a lot about the contamination in the world. We worry about the pollution caused by factories. Although the trash on the street bothers us, it is strange that we are not worried by the trash in our own life.

TRANSITION TO THE SPIRITUAL

Our life is a lot like a trash can. When we disobey the laws of God, we put trash in our lives.

THE PROBLEM (LAW)

Every time you lie, steal or dishonor your parents, you are stuffing trash in your life. Every time you harbor hatred, anger, and jealousy in your heart, you're stuffing trash in your life. Every time you give yourself over to lust and immorality, you're stuffing trash in your life.

THE CONSEQUENCES (ETERNITY)

If you are honest, you will recognize that your life is full of garbage. On the day you die and stand before God you are going to have to show God what's in your life. Do you think a holy God will let you in with all that garbage? The consequences of your sin is an eternity apart from God in hell.

THE SOLUTION (CROSS)

Does this worry you? If so, I have great news for you! God has provided a way out. He sent his only son, Jesus, to earth to die on a cross. On that cross, Jesus suffered to pay the penalty for your trash. After three days he resurrected and has the power to take away all the trash in your life and give you a clean life if you are willing to do two things.

THE CALL (REPENTANCE AND FAITH)

First, you have to be willing to leave your sin behind. Stop lying, stop stealing, stop hating, and stop doing all that dishonors God. Second, you must put your trust in Jesus, giving him the control of your life. Do you want the trash taken out of your life and the security of going to heaven when you die? Turn from your sin and turn your life over to Jesus.