

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

TITLE: Train Ticket

OBJECT: Train Ticket

DOCTRINE: Redemption

STORY WITH THE OBJECT

I travel a lot on the Cercanías trains in Madrid. The other day when I inserted my ticket into the machine, it wouldn't let me through. I tried it several times and it was rejected each time. Although the ticket appeared good, I had to consult the employee on duty, and found out it was invalid. I had no other choice but to buy another ticket because without a ticket, you can't enter the station.

TRANSITION TO THE SPIRITUAL

One day we will all be standing before the entrance of another place we want to enter, but we will also need a ticket to get in. That place is called heaven.

THE PROBLEM (LAW)

The problem is that we have ruined our ticket with things we have done against God. We have lied, we have stolen, we have been disobedient, we have lived in sexual immorality, we have lived for ourselves. Our ticket to heaven has been damaged and rendered invalid, and without a valid ticket, we cannot get in.

THE CONSEQUENCES (ETERNITY)

Without a ticket we are left out of heaven. The only other place to go is hell, a place totally opposite of heaven because it is an absence of God's presence and everything good. But like heaven, hell is also eternal.

THE SOLUTION (CROSS)

Is there someone who can buy us a new ticket? Someone already has, but at a very high price. Jesus Christ paid with his very life to be able to take away the sin from your life and purchase a new ticket to heaven for you. He died on the cross and rose again to offer you a second chance to enter heaven and spend eternity with God.

THE CALL (REPENTANCE AND FAITH)

You must recognize that your ticket is invalid because you have ruined it with your sin. Give your old ticket of sin and dead works to Jesus, and in exchange, receive the precious ticket of salvation that he bought through his death on the cross. Turn from your sin, turn your life over to Jesus, and he will guide you to heaven.