

The Parable *of the* Coming Train



Jason was casually waiting in line for the metro, peering at his phone to read up on the latest news of the day. It had been a long day. He had just finished work, and he was looking forward to going home to relax, eat dinner, and spend some quality time with his wife and children. Occasionally he peered off into the distance to see if he could spot the approaching train, only to glance back down. Finally, he heard a rumble in the distance. Looking up, he saw the coming train. With the joy of anticipation, he watched as it drew near when suddenly he felt a force push against his back, knocking him onto the train tracks. In an instant, the joyful anticipation he felt turned into a thrill of fear and terror.

While Jason is a made-up character, the chilling tale is based on true events which have occurred on multiple occasions to people like Connie Watton, Raphael Mejias, and Zvezdana Drazila. As we read such stories, we cannot help but empathize. Many of us have been waiting with anticipation for some train or bus to take us to our final destination, but the contrast of emotions is unnerving. In an instant, feelings change from joy to fear. Why? The same train is now coming that you were waiting for with such anticipation only a moment before.

What makes the difference? The only difference is your relation to the train. When you were

above the train tracks, you were safe. The coming train meant that you were going to go home, but when you fell onto the tracks, you were no longer safe. Suddenly, the coming train meant your death if you did not move. The way you felt about the train was determined by where you were standing in relation to the train. Your feelings were also amplified by the location of the train. If you fell on the train tracks while the train was still in the distance, you would not be as fearful as you would if you fell on the tracks when the train was very close. The closer the train is, the more intense the feelings.

The way you feel about the train is determined by where you are standing in relation to the train

Similarly, there is another train coming. Like the subway, it is also coming to take people home. In fact, we have been waiting for so long that some people are beginning to say it will never come, but the Bible says, "a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry" (Heb. 10:37). The train that is coming is the coming of Christ, and how we feel about the coming train will depend on where we are in relation to the coming Christ and how near the event is. The tragedy is that many who are on the tracks of eternity do not realize how close the train is.

Today there are many people who are on the train tracks, living in their sins, while Jesus is just about to come. What is so tragic is that many of them are unafraid. I've read multiple stories of people who have gotten drunk and fallen asleep on train tracks, unaware that they were in danger. Some have been injured, while others died, as a result. The same thing is still occurring today. Many who are wandering on the train tracks remain unafraid for a number of different reasons. Many who are on the tracks are unafraid because they have become drunk with false doctrines. One of those doctrines says you don't have to overcome your sins to go to heaven, leading many into complacency.

There is a popular false gospel that has crept into many modern churches that says, once you accept Christ, you can continue to live in your sins. They tell you to simply believe in Christ, and His blood will cover your existing sins. They will tell you that since you are under grace, you don't have to worry about laws and rules. They say you don't have to concern yourself about giving up your sins. As a result of this teaching, we have raised a crop of Christians who live like the devil, getting drunk, getting divorced, having sex outside marriage, looking at pornography, telling little lies, using cuss words, gambling, and more while thinking they are heaven-bound.

Today, even many Christians are standing on the train tracks while thinking they are safe, but the Bible warns, "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9, 10). Speaking of heaven, the Bible says that "there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie" (Rev. 21:27). Sin cannot be allowed into heaven, and God's grace does not excuse our sins. The Bible warns against those who "turn the grace of our God into licentiousness," using it to excuse their sins (Jude 4).

Today, many Christians continue to play on the train tracks of sin while the coming of Christ is fast approaching. Tragically, Jesus tells us that when He returns, "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matt. 7:22, 23). Many who claim to be Christians and have a relationship with Jesus will not be in heaven because they practice lawlessness, and the Bible says "sin is lawlessness" (1 Jn. 3:4).

Anytime someone dies, the pastor in the eulogy always preaches them into heaven. I can

understand this. We don't know all things, so we want to give people the benefit of the doubt and offer hope, but we cannot deny the reality that Jesus said, "narrow is the gate and difficult is the which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matt. 7:14). According to Jesus, most people will not go to heaven. We know this from Bible history as well. In the flood, the vast majority perished. In the days of Christ, the vast majority rejected the Savior. In the last days, the vast majority will fall for the antichrist deception. Do not follow the crowd. They are playing on the tracks, and the train is coming.

Jesus said, "You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times" (Matt. 16:3). Those watching the signs know that the train is coming. We hear the rumble of the train in the wars, in the violent weather, in the violence, in the pandemics that plague the world, in the sexual immorality, and in the riots and civil unrest sweeping across the globe. While we do not know the day or hour of Jesus' return, Christians "are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Thes. 5:4). The signs of Christ's return are all around us (See Matt. 16:3).

Today there are many Christians who say we should never fear God. That is true if you are on the side of the tracks. The train is a joyful sight "to all who

have loved His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8). Those who are living in right relation to God, resisting the pull of sin, will look forward to the train, but “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith,” “for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able” (2 Cor. 13:5; Luke 13:24). Today, many flatter themselves that they are good and upright because they fight for causes, but if we are filled with pride, have hate in our hearts, or have sin in our lives, we will not be permitted into heaven.

Dear friend, the train is coming. Are you on the tracks? Is there some sin in your life you need to give up? Maybe you were not initially to blame. Maybe someone pushed it on you, but now you are stuck. The good news is that God is here to rescue you. After Raphael Mejias was pushed onto the tracks, a stranger reached out and pulled them back, saving them. Even if you have fallen deep into sin, God’s reach is deeper than your darkest sin, for “the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save” (Isa. 59:1). Reach up and take hold of His hand right now so you can be in right relation to the approaching train.

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