

Introduction:

- Max Lucado "Sometime ago I read a story of a youngster who was shooting rocks with a slingshot. He could never hit his target. As he returned to Grandma's backyard, he spied her pet duck. On impulse he took aim and let fly. The stone hit, and the duck was dead. The boy panicked and hid the bird in the woodpile, only to look up and see his sister watching. After lunch that day, Grandma told Sally to help with the dishes. Sally responded, "Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen today. Didn't you Johnny?" And she whispered to him, "Remember the duck!" So, Johnny did the dishes. What choice did he have? For the next several weeks he was at the sink often. Sometimes for his duty, sometimes for his sin. "Remember the duck," Sally'd whisper when he objected. So weary of the chore, he decided that any punishment would be better than washing more dishes, so he confessed to killing the duck. "I know, Johnny," his grandma said, giving him a hug. "I was standing at the window and saw the whole thing. Because I love you, I forgave you. I wondered how long you would let Sally make a slave out of you." (*Steven Cole, "Forgiveness," Leadership Magazine, 1983, 86.*) He'd been pardoned, but he thought he was guilty. Why? He had listened to the words of his accuser.
- I want to look at the spiritual war that is taking place. And give us a picture of the two sides and encourage us by showing what Jesus has given us in the Holy Spirit.

I. The Accuser

- A. To accuse, to betray, to make known to declare.
 1. These are words spoken for the purpose of condemning, betray or destroying. They can be used of both innocent and guilty people.
 - a) Innocent people like Jesus were accused by the Pharisees for the purpose of discrediting him.
 - b) Peter guilty of betraying Jesus was accused by his own conscience...he went away sad.
 - c) Diablos is devil the name means slanderer.
 2. Accusation can be truth spoken as a witness to condemn the guilty. And accusations can be lies spoken by a person to
- B. Job 1:6-ff.
 1. Job's wife.
 2. Job's friends
- C. Zechariah 3:1-ff
 1. Satan comes and accuses Joshua the priest.
- D. Rev 12:10 - The Accuser of the brethren.

II. The Advocate

- A. From the word parakletos - which most Bibles translate as helper, comforter, advocate.
 1. The most accurate translation in my opinion is Advocate. When you have an advocate you have a helper and you have a comforter. Ie. When I had the motorcycle accident I hired a lawyer to represent me. Immediately bills started arriving, insurance companies were calling, our house got slapped with a lien. We needed a helper, someone to comfort us. That person was a law firm.

2. In the OT the priests were advocates. They filled an intercessory role between God and man. The people were guilty and the priest offered sacrifice.
 3. In the OT the prophets were also advocates. They were God's mouth piece but for the purpose of redemption not destruction.
- B. Jesus called himself an Advocate in John as he also introduced the Holy Spirit as Advocate.
1. *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Advocate**, who will never leave you."* (John 14:16, NLT) He will never leave. On your darkest day He is there with you.
- III. **The Holy Spirit is our Advocate**, our Helper, our Comforter.
- A. Holy Spirit as our Advocate
1. Always There *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Advocate**, who will never leave you."* (John 14:16, NLT) He will never leave. On your darkest day He is there with you.
 2. Always Teaching *"But when the Father **sends the Advocate** as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."* (John 14:26, NLT) He will teach and remind us of truth we have heard. He desires to give us Jesus words and understanding of those words.
 3. Always Witnessing *"But I will send you **the Advocate—the Spirit of truth**. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me."* (John 15:26, NLT) He will testify, or bear witness of Jesus. You will know His voice! You will know His presence! You will recognize His work.
 4. Always the Best *"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, **the Advocate** won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."* (John 16:7, NLT) vs 8, and 13-15.
 5. *"My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous."* (1 John 2:1, NLT)
 - a) *"Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor **at God's right hand, pleading for us**."* (Romans 8:34, NLT)
 - b) *"Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. **He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf**."* (Hebrews 7:25, NLT)
- B. With Such an Advocate, Live the Wild life in the Spirit!
1. See Acts
 - a) Paul
 - b) Peter
 - c) Early Church
 2. Move in the gifts
 3. Love with wild abandon!