Introduction:

A. Recently, we have been working through some of the conversations with Jesus recorded in the gospels

1. We focused not so much on the truths Jesus taught, but the way He went about relating to people, striking up that spiritual conversation, and bringing light into lives full of darkness

2. Jesus wasn’t the only one with conversations recorded in the Bible… we also find conversations with the devil! In these conversations we can learn much about ourselves and how he works

3. Where Jesus’ conversations were about bringing life, Satan’s were about bringing death… Jesus’ conversations were about spreading light, Satan’s were about spreading darkness… Jesus’ conversations were about bringing grace & mercy, Satan’s were about bringing accusation.

B. We’ve probably met a person or two we were convinced was the devil; however, I don’t think any of us have had a direct conversation with him. We do have a few conversations recorded and by comparing them it’s clear his motives and his way of operating have not changed. We can read each of these conversations and see ourselves having the conversation with him.

Fireside Chats: Conversations With The Devil

A. A Conversation With Adam And Eve:

1. God’s first words recorded in the Bible was, “Let there be light.” In contrast to that, the devil’s first recorded words were words of challenge and confrontation to God’s light! *(Genesis 3:1-6)*

   a. Before this conversation took place, there was a very simple command from God – You can eat of any tree, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Not only was the command simple, but so were the consequences… the day you eat of it, you will die. The command was easy to understand and very clear. Adam & Eve knew God’s expectation *(Gen. 2:16-17)*

   b. We don’t know how much time passed, but some time did go by. During this time Adam & Eve walked in fellowship & obedience to God. They didn’t question God’s law or reason it away.

   c. That all changed when the devil decided to talk with Eve. He was able to get Eve to forget what she knew. His conversation caused her to lose her personal convictions & confidence in God!

2. One of Satan’s first tactics was to undermine the authority and trustworthiness of God in their sight:

   a. First, the devil tries to get Eve to question what God said ➔ God said they could eat of any except one… Satan says, “Has God said you can’t eat of any?” – Introduces man’s reasoning & logic.

   b. Next, the devil tries to get Eve to question God’s consequences ➔ God said they do die the very day they eat. Now Satan says that won’t happen. He says God won’t really punish them.

   c. Finally, the devil tries to get Eve to question God’s motives ➔ He is telling Eve that God is really trying hold them back… God doesn’t want them to become like Him… God is keeping them from something good. He is saying God isn’t protecting her and that God isn’t really good!

   d. The devil chose the serpent for a reason… it was the craftiest of all the animals! It was fitting because the devil was extremely crafty in his spiritual assault against Adam and Eve.

3. Now that Eve is questioning God, Satan also uses the thoughts and desires within her to tempt her to sin:

   a. The devil appealed to her lust of the flesh – She craved it’s flavor. There was so much for her to enjoy that was within the will of God. But this was here & now and this was forbidden fruit!

   b. The devil appealed to her lust of the eyes – She loved its appearance. She no longer saw it as sinful but as delightful. It’s appearance changed to her because her focus had shifted.
c. The devil appealed to her pride of life – She desired what she thought it would do for her. She saw -personal gain. She wanted to experience being something more than what she was.

4. This conversation with Adam and Eve is a classic case study for how the devil works in tempting us, destroying our faith, and chipping away at our devotion *(I John 2:15-17; James 1:12-17)*
   a. First, the devil will use our lusts and our desires against us. He knows what makes us tick. He knows what we value & desire. If our heart is in the world, he will use the world against us!
   b. When we are involved in one of those “fireside chats”- we’ve got remember what God’s word says. So often the problem isn’t that we don’t know what is right and wrong, the problem is that we ignore it or we reason it away. God’s word is really pretty simple & straightforward.
   c. Satan wants us to question God and lose confidence in Him. He wants us to doubt that God is right, that God is a rewarder, and that God will punish. He wants us to think that God is keeping us from something good with His laws instead of protecting us from what is bad.
   d. What’s the answer? TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART!

B. A Conversation With God:

1. This conversation is very different… One day Satan appeared before the throne of God and had a conversation with the Lord about one of God’s servants... a man named Job *(Job 1:6-12)*
   a. There’s a lot of theological questions I have about this – Like, how can Satan who is full of sin be able to go before the presence of God. Why does God allow Satan to talk to Him like this? Regardless of our questions, Satan was able to go before God to bring a charge against Job.
   b. Satan appears before the throne of God as Job’s accuser – He is basically saying that Job’s faith is incredibly shallow! That Job doesn’t serve God because it is right or because He understands how awesome God is... Satan says Job is only serving God for what Job can get out of it.
   c. But this isn’t just an accusation against Job, it’s an accusation against God and all of God’s people... That God only gets people to submit to Him and serve Him because God has blessed them.
   d. The devil chose to use trials in order to shipwreck the faith, hope, and love of Job. He takes away things that are dear to Job in order to get Job to give up on God.

2. Job still doesn’t give up on God, so Satan comes before God for one more conversation *(Job 2:1-7)*
   a. The devil is relentless in his arrogance and rebellion – Does the devil really think he is right? I don’t think so. He isn’t so much concerned about what’s true, but rebelling against God’s cause.
   b. The devil is also relentless in his pursuit of Job – He has already hit Job hard and where it hurts. Job has lost his children, possessions, and his livelihood. Now he goes after Job’s own health.
   c. The devil is relentless in his search for susceptible faith - In both of these conversations we learn that Satan had wandered to and fro and up and down on the earth. He was searching for something... He was searching for people he could pull away from God. Was that Job?
   d. With the devil, he connects the physical with the spiritual. He thinks men serve God for physical reasons. So when he seeks to shipwreck Job’s faith, he goes after his physical stuff!

3. This gives us a unique window into the devil and our spiritual struggle *(Rev. 12:10-12; Rom 8:1)*
   a. The devil is our accuser – An accuser is a person who brings a charge against another. Job shows us that the devil is a relentless accuser. Sometimes he is right... if we aren’t in Christ, all he says about us is true. If we are walking in Christ, he has no ground to accuse!
   b. Peter describes Satan in a similar way that the book of Job describes him... as one who walks around seeking any he may devour... prowling with the tenacity & slyness of a lion *(I Pet. 5:8)*
c. We have to make sure we are serving God for the right reason. Our faithfulness to him cannot be tied to how well things are going physically for us... having our health, good finances, great job, possessions, nice home, happy family... American dream. What if Satan attacked those?

d. If we get too close to this world we can rest assured he will use that weakness against us. If our treasure is on earth, he will take it away. With such misplaced priorities comes a weak faith!

C. A Conversation With Jesus:

1. Possibly the most shocking conversation of the devil came when he chose to attack the righteousness and faithfulness of Jesus Christ, the son of God! *(Matthew 4:1-11)*

2. The devil’s conversation with Jesus follows much of the same methodology as his conversation with Eve:
   a. He appealed through fleshly desire, through personal gain, and through power and glory
   b. Just like with Eve, this is about the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life.
   c. He is trying to get Jesus to use the power His Father gave them for His own profit and glory, He is trying to get Jesus to work His own will instead of His Father’s will.
   d. Satan used questions and logic to get Eve to ignore God’s laws... Now Satan is trying to use a twisting to the scriptures to get Jesus to ignore His Father’s will.

3. The devil identified what he thought was weakness in the life and mind of Jesus:
   a. Jesus knew what was right and wrong and Satan knew that... This was not about tempting Jesus in something he doesn’t know, but getting Jesus to disregard what he knows... like with Eve
   b. He went after Jesus during a time of physical weakness – Jesus was in a desert... a place void of nourishment. Jesus just finished a 40 day fast. He would have been hungry, tired, & weak
   c. He went after Jesus during a time of personal weakness – Jesus was alone. He was led by the spirit to a place of difficulty. None to encourage. Many would be frustrated for being sent here!
   d. He went after Jesus in an area of potential weakness – Satan is offering Jesus all the kingdom of the world. Remember, this is what the Father is giving Jesus, but it is to come through the cross. It was after the cross that every knee would bow and tongue would confess. Satan is saying, “Here’s a way around the cross.” ➔ Remember His prayer of a way to escape it?

4. While Satan’s tactics with Jesus are very similar to those he used on Adam and Eve, there are some unique lessons we can learn from this conversation *(Psalm 119:9-16; 1 Cor. 10:12-13)*
   a. First, we need to realize that Satan has guts! Or least Satan is truly desperate. If the devil is willing to go after Jesus, we can be certain he will also pursue all of us. No one is safe or immune!
   b. The devil is very strategic and methodical in his assaults on our faith – He will pursue us during times of weakness in our lives. So when we know we are growing weary in our faith, discouraged, feeling alone, or frustrated... we must be extra vigilant!
   c. Our knowledge is vital! We have to make sure we know God’s will for our lives, that we spend time in His word, and that God’s word is at the core of our lives. When Satan comes after us, He will try to get us to ignore what we know is right through temptation and trials. When temptation and trials present themselves we have to remember, “It is written...”
   d. Having said all of this, the devil is predictable. He went after Jesus in much the same way he went after Adam and Eve and we can be certain he will come after us the same way as well. He will appeal to our pride, fleshly desires, and an avoidance of the consequences of doing right